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Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Union Summit Continues in Carthage

Ben Ali Address

LD2301152490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1219 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at Arab Maghreb Union summit at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies: It gives me pleasure, now that our work at this session is about to end, to renew to you the sincerest expressions of thanks and gratitude for the constructive proposals and sound views you expressed on all the subjects we dealt with during our consultations and deliberations. We have succeeded, praise be to God, in making more steps along the path of realizing the hopes of our Zeralda and Marrakech summits by bolstering the structures of our union. [passage omitted]

What we have done at this session, in creating specialized ministerial committees and approving a Maghreban implementation program which is easy to accomplish, clearly reaffirms our desire to realize the economic and structural integration and to guarantee our food security, in addition to facilitating travel in all its forms within a Maghreban space—which all of us desire to be a unified and expanded space in which all frontiers will diminish. [passage omitted]

It is our desire to give a strong momentum to the work in the field and to bolstering the foundation for Maghreban unity within the framework of our firm attachment to joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab League; in this we work as the other regional Arab groupings, with whom we have common aims and with whom we share a common desire to lay the foundations of strong, cooperative relations between them and us. We believe that all these structures are solid bricks in strong foundations for the unification of the Arab nation and the unification of its word so that it can realize its aspirations for development, impregnability, and the defense of its interests and just issues, at the forefront of which is the question of the struggling Palestinian people.

During this meeting, we have been able to exchange views and consultations on the main issues preoccupying our thoughts at the Arab and international levels, thus reaffirming a good precedent which we have followed in adhering to consultation, discussion of issues, and coordination of stances in a manner that serves the interests of our Maghreban peoples and our Arab nation and bolster the issues of cooperation, peace, justice, and liberation of all parts of the globe. We have reaffirmed our desire for effective solidarity with all the fraternal African peoples and their legitimate struggles, proceeding from our African origin, and at the same timne underlining the fact that our Union is open to the peace-loving peoples and nations, and from a true desire to have sincere cooperation with all groups, at the forefront of which is the EEC, with which we have traditional ties which we want to develop and bolster within the framework of mutual respect and common interest, in order to consolidate security and amity along the shores of the Mediterranean.

Your Majesty; Your Excellencies, while with God's blessings we are about to enter a new phase in the path of our union with equal magnitude of far-sighted enthusiasm, and deep awareness of the immense collective responsiblity, it gives me pleasure, when you have given Tunisia the honor of chairing the new session of the leadership council, to praise what has been achieved. [passage omitted]

King Hassan's Closing Speech

LD2301154290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1226 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Speech by King Hassan II of Morocco at Arab Maghreb Union summit at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage—live]

[Text] Your Excellencies, Dear Brothers, Your Highnesses, Your Excellency the President: My brothers Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi and President Chadli Bendjedid have asked me to thank you, your people, and your government. I am undertaking this duty with great pleasure and willingness, for many reasons: First, the favorable atmosphere and climate which we found from the moment we set foot in the land of dear Tunisia. Since then, we have felt that Tunisia—the government, people, and president—have embraced this conference with their hearts, passion, consciousness, and its well-known long and bitter struggle for the edification of this unified Arab Maghreb. Second, we found a favorable climate in the hall of our sessions. We found that the work had been prepared by our foreign ministers, and we do not forget that they worked in your country, with the cooperation of your apparatuses. Third, we were able, in this fraternal atmosphere, to speak frankly, as is our custom, about the problems submitted before us. Each one of us has his own view, dictated by either its geographic position or its economic and social environment.

But the major phenomenon is that we, despite the vastness of our geography, have always tried, sincerely, seriously, and with a view of the present and the future, to unify the word and the vision, to see a stage as nothing but a stage, and to distinguish between the stage and the objective. Yes, some objectives may seem long-term, but it is certain that with our enthusiasm, frankness, and cooperation, we shall accomplish the stages, and what used to be the day after tomorrow will become tomorrow, God willing; and what used to be tomorrow will become today, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Ben Ali] I thank his majesty for what he said, and I officially declare the completion of the work of our session and close it. God bless you. [applause]

Final Statement Issued

LD2301150190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1153 GMT 23 Jan 90

['Final statement' by the Arab Maghreb Union summit issued at the concluding session at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage, read by Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, with introductory remarks by session chairman President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali—live]

[Text] [Ben Ali] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

After succeeding, with God's help, in concluding our proceedings, I now announce the opening of the final session. We will now sign the document concerning the creation of the four specialized ministerial committees. We will also initial the final statement which will be read by [Tunisian Foreign Minister] Abdelhamid Escheikh. Over to you now, please.

[Escheikh] Thank you, Your Excellency Mr President.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

This is the final statement issued at the end of the first ordinary session of the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] Leadership Council held in Tunis on 24, 25, and 26 Jumada al-Thani 1410 Hijira, 1399 after the prophet's death, corresponding to 21, 22, and 23 January 1990:

In response to an invitation by His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia, and by virtue of Articles 4 and 5 of the treaty on the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union, the first ordinary session of the AMU Leadership Council was held in Tunis, the Republic of Tunisia, on 24, 25, and 26 Jumada al-Thani 1410 Hijira, 1399 after the prophet's death, corresponding to 21, 22, and 23 January 1990, with the participation of their majesties and excellencies King Hassan II of the Kingdom of Morocco; President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia; President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution in the Great Sociaist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was also attended by His Excellency Major Cheikh Sid Ahmed Ouild Baba, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who is representing His Excellency Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

His Majesty King Hassan II opened the session with a speech in which he addressed his deepest thanks to President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and to the Tunisian people for their warm hospitality. He also reviewed the general lines of the activities undertaken by the AMU and the achievements made with regard to the union's structures and Maghrebian action.

His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia and chairman of the union, then delivered a speech in which he welcomed his brothers the leaders of the Arab Maghreb and hailed the relentless efforts made by His Majesty King Hassan II during his term in office as chairman of the union. He also priased the valuable achievements realized during this period at various levels. He then stressed everyone's strong and firm political will to proceed on the path of solidarity and integration and highlighted the continuous efforts which are required of the union in the next phase with a view to embodying the aspirations of the fraternal Maghrebian peoples.

The Leadeship Council studied the progress achieved in the construction of the union and praised the implementation of the accord after its endorsement by the constitutional bodies of the member-countries which signalled the establishment of unionist institutions.

The Leadership Council examined the report submitted to it by the union's Council of Foreign Ministers at their preparatory meeting in Tunis 15-16 Jumada al-Thani 1410 AH, 1399 after the death of the prophet, corresponding to 14-15 January 1990 AD, and approved the following issues:

1. Structures:

A. Agreement on increasing the number of members of the Consultative Council from 10 to 20 from each country and on the amendment pertaining to that in the union's accord.

B. Agreement on the setting up of four specialist ministerial committees, namely the Food Security Committee, the Economy and Finance Committee, the Infrastructure Committee, and the Human Resources Committee. The committees will meet in the following way, as proposed: The Human Resources Committee to meet in Tunisia in the second month of 1990; the Economy and Finance Committee in Algeria at the beginning of the 3d month of 1990; the Food Security Committee in Morocco in the 2d month of 1990; the Infrastructure Committee in Libya in the 3d month of 1990; the Interior Ministers Council in Nouakchott in the 3d month of 1990.

C. Agreement that the union would have a permanent secretariat general to be set up by the Leadership Council, which will also decide on its location and tasks and appoint its secretary-general.

D. The judicial body is to be invited to hold its founding session in Tunis as soon as possible.

E. Agreement on specifying the dates of the Leadership Council's periodic meetings.

F. The foreign ministers and defense ministers are to be invited to meet with a view to laying down the format of coordination and cooperation in the sphere of defense, and to submit a report on that to the next session of the leadership council.

2. Executive Plan:

The Leadership Council endorsed the proposals regarding the action program and executive plan, and delegated the union's bodies to implement them.

3. The Leadership Council studied the proposals aimed at improving cooperation between the AMU, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Cooperation Council. Out of its belief in the unity of destiny and the close ties that link the Arab nation, and in adherence to the Arab League Charter, the Leadership Council urges the union's bodies to strengthen cooperation in all spheres and to consult with all these regional organizations within the framework of the Arab League in order to achieve the common objectives of integration and unity. The Leadership Council also praised the bilateral and collective Arab unionist steps in the Arab homeland and considered them to be preparatory steps toward comprehensive Arab unity. In this context the Leadership Council stressed its support for the unionist move between the two parts of Yemen.

Out of its conviction that an advanced Maghrebian entity will enable the union's member-countries to consolidate joint action with the other sisterly African countries for the sake of our African continent's progress and prosperity, the Leadership Council urges that relations with African regional organizations similar to the union be strengthened, and to sponsor dialogue and intensify consultation between the bodies of the union and those of these regional organizations in a way that will strengthen African solidarity and consolidate joint efforts for development, progress, and peace.

The Leadership Council examined future relations between the union and the European economic groupings, particularly the European Economic Community, proceeding from the cultural links between the union member-states and these groupings, and out of its conviction of the need to work for consolidating security, peace, and cooperation in the region and the establishment of equal relations in the interest of the region's peoples.

The Leadership Council expressed its deep concern for the situation of the Maghreb community and its future in the EEC countries and tasked the Foreign Ministers' Council to follow up these situations and adopt the appropriate measures for safeguarding the identity of this community, its rights, and its interests, and to submit a report on this subject to the Leadership Council at its next session. The Leadership Council also tasked the union's apparatus to study relations with the other regional groupings and to lay down appropriate formulae for dialogue with these groupings.

4. The Palestinian issue:

The Leadership Council reviewed with extreme care the situation in Palestine, recalling the resolutions issued by the Arab summit conferences, particularly the Algiers and the Casablanca summit conferences, on the Palestinian issue. The council expresses its admiration for the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian people in all its factions inside the occupied territories, and salutes the valiant intifadah which has entered its 3d year stronger and more resolute, so much so that it has earned recognition by the world of the legitimacy of the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of its independent state on its land under the leadership of its sole and legitimate representative—the PLO.

While expressing its support for the blessed intifadah until it realizes its aims, the council calls on the international community to work for halting the persecution by Israel and imposing respect for the international charters and treaties and caring for human rights which the Zionist entity deliberately violates. The council reaffirms its support for the convening of an international peace conference under United Nations auspices and with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all sides concerned in the peace process on equal footing, including the PLO, in order to find a permanent and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian issue.

5. The situation in Lebanon:

The council examined the Lebanese issue and praised the national concord agreement which laid down the appropriate foundations for the issue to gradually proceed toward the solution being sought. The council expressed its admiration for the positive role played by the member-states of the union to this end and the generous efforts made by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, His Majesty King Hassan II, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid within the framework of the Arab supreme committee and the results of such efforts—concentration of the constitutional legitimacy in Lebanon.

The council also confirmed its support for President Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Lebanese Republic, and for the National Charter Government in its drive to maintain Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and territorial integrity and to spread its sovereignty over all its national soil, and urges the United Nations to consolidate constitutional legitimacy in Lebanon and to support the efforts of the Supreme Arab Committee on the basis of the National Charter agreement.

6. The Situation Between Iraq and Iran:

The council reviewed the situation between Iraq and Iran and the results of the negotiations between the 2 countries under the auspices of the United Nations. And while it praises the efforts being exerted by the UN secretary general in this context, it confirms its support for Security Council Resolution No 598 as a basis for finding a just and lasting solution which will bring peace between the two Islamic peoples.

7. Namibia and South Africa:

The Leadership Council discussed the latest developments in South Africa and recorded with satisfaction the Namibian people's exercise of their legitimate right to self-determination and its joining soon the ranks of independent states. At the same time the council confirms its effective support for the struggle of the peoples of South Africa to eliminate the hated regime of racial discrimination and to establish a system of majority role.

8. Indebtedness and Development:

The council studied the issue of indebtedness and its serious reflection on the economies of the states of the union, Africa, and the 3d World in general. And while it expresses its concern at the aggravation of this phenomenon which perpetuates the gap between rich and poor states, it supports all efforts being exerted in particular within the framework of the United Nations for the reduction of this burden and the establishment of a new international economic order, which is characterized by justice and which creates the climate for balanced development.

9. International Changes

The council follows with extreme interest the changes taking place in international relations and the resulting deep changes in the major balances. And while it is delighted at the international relaxation and diminution of the policy of axes which these changes signify, it sees that these changes make Maghrebian solidarity more urgent and certain in order to raise the ability of the states of the union to confront the major changes, and it expresses hope that this relaxation will facilitate a just solution to the causes of peace and development in the world.

10. Political Consultation.

Based on the premise of the principles provided for in the treaty setting up the AMU, and in view of the importance of the aforementiond subjects and the need to follow up their developments, the Leadership Council has decided to intensify the political dialogue among the states of the union and entrusted the Council of Foreign Ministers with following up all international issues of common interest and holding consultations and coordinations over them.

11. The council expresses its gratitude to His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and the Tunisian Government and people for the hospitality and warm welcome, the perfect organization of this session of the Leadership Council, and the creation of the conditions for the success of its work. [applause]

Ben Ali on Maghreb Unity

LD2201131390 Algiers APS in English 1128 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 22/1/90 (APS)—In an interview to APS, Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali said that since the Zeralda summit, we have moved from the stage of rhetorics to the one of acts. If the Zeralda summit has opened the way to Maghreb unity, he added, the constitutive summit of Marrakech enabled the setting up of structures of the Union of Arab Maghreb.

The council of the presidency, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the follow up commission, the UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] Permanent Secretariat, the Maghreb Parliament and the higher judicial instance were born since February 17, 1989.

We must now create specialized ministerial commissions to assure a minimum of efficiency. At the economic level, our major objective consists in seeking complementarity between our countries, developing and balancing our exchanges and constituting a united economic front vis a vis our foreign partners.

Bendjedid Comments

LD2301005790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid gave an exclusive interview to TAP. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about whether there are some bilateral problems that negatively affect the process of establishing Maghreb unity, President Chadli Bendjedid stressed that there are no bilateral problems among the members of the Arab Maghreb Union that could negatively affect the unionist march. As for the other problems, the unbiased and fraternal dialogue is the only way to overcome them. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Assesses Summit

LD2301235590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] In a news conference held yesterday [23 January], Mr Habib Boulares, minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] summit, stressed that the Tunis summit was successful, because its proceedings took place according to methods laid down for them and according to the proposed agenda. He said that the summit reviewed all items included in the agenda. The summit issued resolution and recommendations that represent a significant step on the path of the edification of the Maghreb institutions. The summit was not marred by any differences.

He added that the summit press release represents a clear picture of the broad outlook of the Maghreb leaders, and that Tunisia, which assumes the UMA chairmanship for 6 months, is determined to do its utmost to enhance common action so that to realize the aspirations of the Maghreb peoples. This will be achieved through constructive action and serious materialization of the resolutions that have been adopted so that the Tunis summit will represent another hallmark of the UMA edification.

The minister indicated that the talks of the Maghreban leaders were characterized by frankness and took place in an excellent atmosphere. There was a common will and desire for progressing firmly and continuously; The work awaiting the 5 leaders in the upcoming period is significant and intensive, requiring the participation and potential of all Maghreban institutions.

Next Summit Planned for Jul

LD2401114190 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 24/1/90 (APS)—Habib Boulares, Tunisian minister of culture and information and spokesman of the UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] summit said Tuesday [23 January] that the forthcoming Maghreb summit will be held in Algiers in July.

In a press conference Boulares added that the question concerning the Maghreb capital that will host the UMA Secretariat General was not tackled.

"As concerns the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, he said, the question was not dealt with".

Arab League Hails Maghreb Union

LD2201125890 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 22/1/90 (APS)—The Arab League hailed the holding of the 3rd Maghrebian summit in Tunis. General secretary of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi underlined that the efforts engaged by the (UMA) [Arab Maghreb Union] in order to realize the objectives inscribed in its character and to materialize the solidarity among its countries, are followed and supported by the Arab League.

The declaration added that this initiative favours the social and economic development, and consolidates the basis of the Arab Maghreb unity so as to guarantee prosperity of its people as well as to increase and to reinforce their participation in the common Arab action and the defence of the security of its countries. The declaration concluded by hailing the creation of this union which answers to the aspiration claimed by the people of the Maghreb since generations.

Jordan, Iraq, Egypt Leaders Discuss Syria, PLO

JN2101180090 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Jan 90 p 1

[By Khalil Khurmah]

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's surprise visit to Jordan and his talks with Jordan's King Husayn resulted in the formulation of a joint Jordanian-Iraqi position on the Middle East peace process and on solutions proposed to resolve the Palestine question.

Iraqi diplomatic sources have told AL-BAYAN that the two leaders engaged in a detailed discussion of the Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement and the mediation that Cairo plans to undertake between Syria and the PLO. The sources also say that an agreement was reached on a unified position, which was conveyed to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during telephone conversations held between the Jordanian king and the Egyptian president the day before yesterday, and between the Iraqi and Egyptian presidents yesterday.

Regional Peace Conference Opens in Aden

EA2001222490 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The international conference for peace, security and cooperation in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian Gulf began its business this afternoon at the hall of the Aden hotel. Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidum of the Supreme People's Council, delivered an important and comprehensive speech.

This evening delegations of Democratic Germany, Tanzania, Mauritius, Guinea and Congo arrived in Aden to take part in the proceedings of the international conference for peace, security and cooperation in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. The conference began its business today. The delegations were received by Abd-al-Wakil al-Sururi, candidate member of the Central Committee and general secretary of the Yemeni Council of Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship with Peoples.

PDRY President Speaks

EA2101201390 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The international conference for peace opened this afternoon with the theme, "For the Sake of Peace, Security, and Cooperation in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian Gulf." The conference will meet 20-22 January in Aden. About 120 delegates from about 45 organizations and international, regional, and local associations are participating in the conference proceedings.

The 3-day conference will discuss the issues of the military threat to regional security, the threat of nuclear weapons, foreign military bases and military presence, and the effect of regional conflicts and tension on peace, security, and development in the region. The conference will also discuss the possibilities of cooperation between the countries of the region. The conference will discuss protecting the region from different forms of pollution. The conference will also discuss the issues of oil and merchant navigation and security in the region, as well as the struggle for disarmament and security in the region and the role of nations and other organizations.

The opening ceremony of the conference was attended by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the presidium of the Supreme People's Council and several members of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee, party and government officials, and the Yemeni Council of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship With Peoples.

Brother al-'Attas delivered a speech in which he welcomed the participants on behalf of the Central Committee, its Political Bureau, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and the Council of Ministers. He said: I convey my gratitude and appreciation for this important gathering to which we are bound by the pillars of world peace, multilateral economic and cultural cooperation, and by a combined struggle in various spheres for the sake of peace. We are also bound by the aims and goals of the solidarity of nations, for the sake of friendship and love among nations. He said:

[Begin al-'Attas recording] The political leadership has welcomed and supported the holding of this conference in our country because the issues incorporated in its working agenda are the focus of particular concern for the YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] and the state, as they are the focus of concern for all human beings. These issues have been, and still are, one of our foreign policy's moral pivots. They emanate from foreign policy principles and from our adherence to the UN Treaty, the Arab League and Nonaligned Movement objectives, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law, which are aimed at preserving international peace and security and at encouraging economic and cultural cooperation on the basis of mutual benefits, respect for sovereignty, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Your conference is convening today with a new, distinctive international atmosphere of harmony, detente, and peace prevailing, with the expansion of the base of social (?activity), in a bid to halt the arms race and replace tension with relations of understanding and harmony. One can say that the new political thinking has played a role in laying down necessary conditions and circumstances for the creation of broader international detente which, on the plane of practical reality, has been reflected in arms reductions and the eradication of some types of destructive weapons.

Nevertheless, the world still has a long way to go in order to arrive at a world free of weapons of mass destruction and total annihilation, a world in which peace and security prevail, and which is founded on the basis of mutual interests and the exchange of benefits, for the welfare of nations and their social development.

Allow me on this occasion to hail the joint and fruitful efforts of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization [AAPSO] and the Yemen Council for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship of the Nations for their tenacious efforts in preparing for the convening of this conference, and for preparing this large gathering of thinkers and combatants for the sake of the noblest cause of humanity, which is the issue of world peace.

From that (?it follows) that this international gathering brings together many high-level participants, endowed with a high degree of specialization and knowledge of the issues which will be the focus of review, discussions, and conclusions during your meetings. It is sensible, therefore, to let the experts handle the issues. We are confident that this meeting will achieve what we all desire, and will contribute to the furthering of cooperation and peace.

Meanwhile, I take this opportunity to brief the brothers and friends on the significant developments affecting the two Yemens, aimed at realizing the reunification of Yemen on a peaceful and democratic basis, embodying the Yemeni people's will. This reunification will be an element in the region's security, guaranteeing the strengthening of regional cooperation, security and peace, and will contribute to the consolidation of world peace.

The overwhelming popular will has enabled the political leadership in the two parts of Yemen to overcome all the obstacles surrounding the previous unification efforts. The high sense of national responsibility and the inspiration of Yemeni wisdom contributed to the conclusion of the historic Aden agreement on 30 November, 1989. The agreement should be considered as the fulfillment of the pledge to the noble martyrs of the Yemeni revolution, who waged the national struggle and gave their noble lives for the achievement of this sacred objective. It comes in response to the wishes of the Yemeni people, who regard unity as a source of their pride and dignity, and as a factor in their comprehensive development and the recovery of their historic glories, the Yemeni civilization, which constituted one of the brilliant models in the development of humanity in ancient times.

Since that auspicious day whose light continues to disperse the darkness of (?disunity), a powerful impetus has been born in the minds of our Yemeni people, north and south, to complete the noble unification tasks at party, governmental, mass, creative, and professional levels. Although the period since the Aden Agreement was signed is short, we can say that what has already been achieved is positive, and gives impetus to progression with bolder and firmer steps to complete the remaining defined tasks during a period of one year, to be followed by the declaration of the state of unity. That day is not far off.

At the beginning of the opening session, Brother Abd al-Wakil al-Sururi, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the Yemeni Council for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship, delivered a speech. At the beginning of the speech he welcomed the brother chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and the brother participants in the conference.

He said that the convening of the international conference in Aden must be regarded as an expression of solidarity with democratic Yemen.

There was also a speech delivered in the name of the Arab League. It was delivered by the league's secretary general. He praised the unification work by the two parts of Yemen as a step toward uniting Yemen and the Arab countries.

At the opening ceremony a message from the UN secretary general was read. The message stressed the importance of the conference to the UN And the international community. [passage omitted]

Brother Dr Murad Ghalib, AAPSO chairman, delivered a speech in which he expressed his joy at the fact that the conference was being held in Aden at a time when the two parts of Yemen were witnessing a political initiative which was in step with exciting world events. [passage omitted]

Arab Declaration on Realizing Foodstuff Security

LD1801214890 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The Council of Arab Ministers of agriculture ended their conference in Tripoli Declaration for Realizing Arab Foodstuff Security. The declaration says:

The Arab Agriculture Ministers Council discussed the problem of pan-Arab foodstuff security at its 19th session. In response to an invitation made by the brother leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in his directives made when he opened the session meetings, to begin executory practical measures, in implementation of the conventions of the unified Arab action organization, to secure the necessary protection for Arab farming products, to facilitate their distribution among the Arab countries, and to set up projects and structures in which Arab capabilities are pooled with their human, natural and material resources, the council has decided the following:

1. Setting up an Arab fund for agricultural development as a specialized agency emanating from the council. The fund will finance farming projects and programs aimed at realizing Arab foodstuff security at both bilateral and pan-Arab levels.

2. The Arab leaders will discuss convening a special conference on Arab foodstuff security. The chairman of the current session of the council is called upon to follow this up, and the general management of the organization to prepare overall studies showing the size of the problem, and to prepare the suggestions made by the council concerning its solution.

The council also decided to invite the Arab countries to intensify individual efforts to take part in the settlement of the food problem at both individual and pan-Arab level by increasing the rate of investments allocated to the farming sector with an amount likely to secure a genuine growth of this sector, and by following a scientific method based on individual studies showing the usefulness of the projects and showing how they can be financed by various financing sources. The council also called for improving the farming domain, and laying down of laws and rules securing incentives to investors and facilitating investment operations.

3. Opening Arab borders and markets before the marketing of goods between the Arab countries, encouraging this, and making it a priority in the Arab countries to import Arab farming goods, together with imposing high taxes on imports of foreign farming produce. [passage omitted]

4. Efforts will be made to achieve a genuine common Arab market, and to promote the agreements existing already concerning such a market, and to seek to carry out these agreements.

The council has, on the other hand, issued a final communique carrying a number of important resolutions and recommendations concerning Arab foodstuff security, self-sufficiency, establishing an Arab grains authority and an Arab waters authority. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Committees Hail PLO Reconciliation

JN1901191390 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] A responsible source at the national committees in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] today stated the following:

The national committees welcome the statement made by PLO Executive Committee member brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] in which he invited the PFLP-GC to attend the next session of meetings by the PLO Central Council. The national committees view this invitation as a good opportunity for the PFLP-GC to correct its stand toward the PLO. We ask comrade [assistant PFLP-GC secretary general] Talal Naji to accept this invitation regardless of the endorsement of or opposition to this move by Jibril, as attendance at this session would constitute the first step toward saving the PFLP-GC and returning it to the national ranks, the objective which the national committees have been striving to achieve.

PFLP's Abu-'Ali Mustafa Interviewed

PM1801145090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 90 p 3

[Interview with Abu-'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] What has happened regarding [former Palestine National Council speaker] Khalid al-Fahum's call to unite all the groups under the PLO?

[Mustafa] We of the PLO have welcomed it, but the other parties to whom the call was addressed have not responded to it.

It was expressed via statements issued by the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] General Command and Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa], in which they said they were unlikely to work within that framework.

With regard to the PLO, since 1987—specifically in Algiers during the national unity session and what followed it—the Executive Committee decided to form a committee to hold talks with these groups so that they would join the march, and the door is still open and their seats are reserved, whether in the Palestine National Council [PNC] or the Central Council.

[Shihab] In your view, what prevents their return now?

[Mustafa] I do not know the reasons, but, as they have announced, it has to do with political reservations centering on a demand to go back on decisions made at council meetings in past years in which they did not participate.

Logically, this is impermissible and these decisions can only be abolished by decisions issued by the institution that approved them.

It has escaped many of the brothers in the [Palestine National] Salvation Front that the intifadah has united the masses of our people. And it is now known that the political map determines the importance of every organization from its effective and influential role in backing the masses and interacting with their movement—not through speeches and statements. As far as our people are concerned, one single practical step is better than a dozen philosophical programs.

[Shihab] The role being played by the Palestinian forces in South Lebanon—as a disengagement force between the warring Amal Movement and Hizballah—has raised several questions. How do you view that role?

[Mustafa] Our intervention is positive, the objective being to stop the hemorrhage, and we do not want it to go beyond that. As far as we are concerned, the problem there is an internal matter, and we seek no political interests or objectives from the continuation of the hemorrhage among Lebanese-Lebanese parties.

As you know, during the camps war bloodshed occurred between the Amal Movement and Palestinians, but it is more useful to help to stop the war. There are parties seeking to spread the fire in order to divert attention from the intifadah and the ugly methods used by the Israeli occupation forces.

We of the PLO supported the al-Ta'if agreement as a solution to the Lebanese crisis. So what do you think our position would be when the crisis is on the contact lines with the Israeli enemy, whose elements are watching from their positions a fratricide which is destroying innocent people.

[Shihab] [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Secretary General] Dr Georges Habash recently called for an ordinary PNC session to be convened. What is the position on that call, and will it happen soon?

[Mustafa] Originally the subject was dealt with at the Palestine National Council session in Baghdad several months ago. It was decided at that meeting that the preliminary committee be called to meet to study the matter, especially since world developments now require that the Palestinian parliament in exile be convened: That is one point. The other point is legal: The council should hold an ordinary session every year, especially as the previous sessions were extraordinary. What is required now that we quicken our pace to form a new national council and draw up a new agenda for it. So Dr George Habash's call has encountered interest from many leading brothers. And we hope that at the next meetings to be held within 2 weeks this matter will be included on the agenda in so that its implementation can be discussed, especially as we launched a political initiative which has resulted in successes and failures that warrant a pause. That does not mean that we are against the continuation of that initiative. But now that more than a year has elapsed since the initiative was launched we see that the appropriate thing is to sit down and reexamine events, their development, and their impact on the course of the Palestinian issue at the local, Arab, and internal levels.

[Shihab] Are we to understand from your statement that there could be backtracking from some of what was announced at the PNC session in Algiers?

[Mustafa] Absolutely not. No backtracking from the political initiative. What should be examined is the policy of movement and the tactics used to implement it. What is required is an examination of future prospects in order to draw up a policy responding to the developments that have occurred.

[Shihab] Anything new with regard to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

[Mustafa] The Americans are still trying to exploit Shamir's stubbornness to serve their schemes, which are still based on ignoring the major PLO role. This is impossible. Besides, they do not acknowledge the Palestinian people's basic rights. From their recent contacts I understood that they wanted to use Shamir's intransigence as a new means of putting pressure on the PLO, especially about determining the Palestinian negotiating delegation and the names of its members.

[Shihab] For our part, we in the PLO will not allow that, because any bargaining over the delegation and the names of its members is a matter for the PLO to decide.

Anything else would mean dismissing the PLO and its role as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

[Shihab] Will Dr George Habash participate in the upcoming Tunis meetings?

[Mustafa] Yes, he will attend these meetings.

[Shihab] Has anything new occurred in Syrian-PLO relations?

[Mustafa] Nothing new so far.

[Shihab] What are the effects of the Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement on the Palestinian position?

[Mustafa] In our view, the rapprochement constitutes an implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions and is part of the policy promoted by the PLO.

We call on the five states facing Israel to meet in order to coordinate as agreed in readiness for the international conference, because a unified Arab position facilitates the success of movement at the internal level.

Palestinian Denies Contact With Weizman

PM1801092489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 90 p 4

[By Layla Dib: "Ahmad al-Tibi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Story of Weizman's Contacts With Palestinian a Tempest in a Teacup"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian doctor Ahmad al-Tibi has denied that Israeli Minister Ezer Weizman contacted him from Moscow, as was reported, but refused to disclose when they last contacted each other.

He emphasized that he will return to occupied Palestine in 2 days' time, at the end of a private visit to Jordan with his parents and other members of his family following the death of his uncle, Subhi al-Tibi.

With regard to the uproar stirred up over the contacts that Weizman was said to have made with PLO officials, Dr al-Tibi said: It is melodramatic and a tempest in a teacup, because Shamir tried to tell the world that he retained him as a cabinet minister even though he claims to have evidence that the minister met with PLO officials. Undoubtedly, Weizman has made a major concession in this instance, but his loss will not last long.

He added that he called it "a tempest in a teacup" because it "led to nothing."

Al-Tibi emphasized that Weizman did not meet with a PLO official: He was sitting in the Hilton Hotel in Switzerland with Dr Butrus Ghali and Nabil al-'Arabi; when PLO representative Nabil Ramlawi passed by he greeted them out of politeness, but no political conversation took place between them, and if it had happened, Dr al-Tibi would have known about it. He added that the talk about a meeting in a car is mere prattle.

He added: There are indirect negotiations between the PLO and Israel via Egypt, the United States, the European states, and individuals, as well as Palestinian figures in the occupied territories who convey messages from Yitzhaq Rabin, in his capacity as defense minister, to officials in the PLO, since these figures used to be summoned to the civil administration to discuss current affairs. They were also allowed to travel and meet with PLO members.

He said: My impression is that Shamir—by detonating the Weizman crisis and banning travel by Palestinian figures such as Dr Sari Nusaybah and Faysal al-Husayni—is trying to tell the world that he does not want to talk to the PLO. So he is confirming what he has always said: He is an obstacle to a true peace settlement and to the change sweeping the entire world.

Dr al-Tibi added: The brothers banned from travel are real advocates of peace.

He also said: There is a new tone in what the Americans are saying, and we must be aware of this. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said about Aron's remarks: "What that man said..." This is the first time that the U.S. Administration has dealt with a senior Israel official in such a way.

As for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, he said that his patience has started to run out as a result of Shamir's intransigence. So he could give up all hope of political process in the region. There are indications that the policy of favoritism pursued by the United States toward Shamir has failed. The PLO has presented its peace plan and displayed outstanding flexibility, but instead of Shamir's moving forward, he has backtracked, persisting in his stubbornness and intransigence, thus leading us to our present situation.

On his view of the role and actions of U.S. State Department officials, Al-Tibi said: Regrettably many employees still believe in Henry Kissinger's thinking, and I believe one of them is Dennis Ross, who plans U.S. Middle East policy.

As for the nature of his role in trying to achieve a peaceful solution, Dr al-Tibi said that it stems from his being a Palestinian and that he will continue to adhere to his principles concerning the need for the PLO's direct participation in the peace process and the need for the Israeli Government to agree to the dialogue with the PLO. He added that he represents only himself.

He said that there is a possibility of a dialogue within 3 months, and that either there is a dialogue or there is not. He said: "My optimism about the absence of a dialogue stems from the fact that the situation resulting from not holding such a dialogue would force the Labor Party to pull out of the coalition government in order to define its position—which I see as positive. The party faces several possibilities: first, to join opposition ranks, which is good, because his presence under Likud grants legitimacy to Shamir's intransigence and the brutal suppression of the intifadah.

The second possibility is for the Labor Party to form a limited government with the religious parties without elections. The third and final possibility is to hold an election. He said that he could not determine the Labor Party's chances of success, but if the elections are held, the main thing will be a "yes or no" to the dialogue with the PLO, so the Labor Party will be forced to announce openly what it is going to say in secret.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid, Israeli Envoy Preview Peres Visit

NC2401002690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador in Cairo today.

Following their meeting, the Israeli ambassador said that they had discussed arrangements for Israeli Finance Minister Shim'on Peres' visit. He disclosed that Peres will meet with President Husni Mubarak; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; and Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning. He said that Peres will also visit the Jewish synagogue in Cairo and the Egyptian Jews heritage project.

Commenting on the significance of the visit, the ambassador said that any visit to Egypt by an Israeli official at this sensitive phase of the peace process is regarded as an important step. He added that the Israeli-Egyptian dialogue is important for giving impetus to the peace process.

The ambassador said that they had also discussed some issues relating to bilateral relations and noted the importance of this stage.

He pointed out that the tripartite meeting will be held in Washington next month and said that a gap still exists between Israel and Washington, and that efforts are now under way to narrow it in order to ensure success for the tripartite meeting.

The ambassador explained that this gap reflects the disagreement over the formation of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue due to be held in Cairo.

Peres Arrives; Comments on Peace Process

NC2301223490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—[Passage omitted] In a statement he made upon arrival, Israeli Finance Minister Shim'on Peres said that the aim of his visit to Egypt is to revive contacts and to get a close look at the nature of the peace process in the Middle East and at the problems now facing it. He said: I would like to get personal impressions through my political contacts with President Husni Mubarak on the important current Egyptian role regarding the future of peace in the Middle East.

Replying to a question on the deadlock which the peace process has reached now and on the means of breaking out of this situation, Peres said: It is possible to overcome the deadlock. My position is this: Today, we are getting very close to the start of significant negotiations with the Palestinians, and it would be a grave mistake to abandon this. As for the remaining problems, they are secondary ones, and it is possible to overcome them with good intentions and bold initiatives.

Responding to a question on whether he considers the question of Palestinian representation in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to be a secondary one, he said: We have agreed on most issues, including the question of representation, but there are still one or two problems that have to be solved; I believe that it is possible to solve them. He added that one of these two points concerns the inclusion of some Palestinians who have been deported from the West Bank. He said: For my part, I accept their participation.

Asked whether his position represents the entire Israeli Government or his personal opinion, he said: The issue has not been submitted yet to the Israeli Cabinet. I hope that it will get the support of the majority when it is submitted. I believe that there is substantial support for it.

Answering a question on the venue for holding the expected Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and whether he believes that Cairo would be a suitable one, Peres said that he strongly supports holding the dialogue in Cairo. He added: I believe that we all agree that Cairo is the venue for the dialogue. He added: President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush are playing an important role in the peace issue, and we consider Cairo to be a friendly and acceptable venue.

Peres expressed hope that the entire Israeli Government will support the peace process and continue it. But, he added, our aim is not to create a division within the Israeli Government but to give impetus to the peace process. He added: The opportunities available for achieving this are greater than the difficulties and if all parties exert the appropriate efforts, then we will soon see a significant beginning for the dialogue between us and the Palestinians. I believe that there is no solution for the Palestinian problem except through real diplomatic negotiations and peace efforts.

Peres said that his visit to Egypt is not an embarrassment for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and noted that he is not in the Israeli Government because of his talent in financial matters but in order to give an impetus to the peace process.

Shim'on Peres categorically denied the presence of any cooperation between Israel and Ethiopia in exploiting the Nile River waters. He said that his country will not intervene at all in the question of dividing the Nile waters and stressed that this is an African problem, not an Israeli one. He added: Egypt is a friendly country, and I do not believe that we will ever take part in any action that would harm Egypt's needs from the Nile.

Regarding Jordan's relationship with the Palestinian issue, Peres said that Jordan is Jordan, and the West Bank and Gaza are the West Bank and Gaza. He added: I belong to a party that does not believe that Jordan is the solution for the Palestinian problem. We differentiate clearly between the Kingdom of Jordan that constitutes an entity on its own and the Palestinian problem, which is limited at present to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He said: In the future we hope to have a joint delegation from Jordan and the Palestinians so as to reach a common solution. We have no intention of turning Jordan into a solution for the Palestinian problem in order to reach this point.

Received by Mubarak

NC2401103890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Shim'on Peres, Israeli finance minister and leader of the Israeli Labor Party, this morning. Peres arrived in Cairo last night.

1 Killed as Police Disperse Asyut 'Extremists'

NC2301213590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Asyut, 23 Jan (MENA)—Some extremist groups in Asyut attempted to stage a demonstration from the Khashabah Mosque in al-Jumhuriyah Street last night. Police forces confronted them outside the mosque and warned them to disperse.

The groups did not obey orders and stoned the police forces. A member of the groups fired a shot from a locally made shotgun at the policemen, who were forced to fire some shotgun bullets to disperse the groups. A man named 'Abd-al-Sabur Muhammad Hasanayn al-'Arini was killed as a result. Al-'Arini, a grocer in Manfalut city, had appointed himself leader of the group. He was arrested in November to curb his activity.

The police arrested 11 members of the group and referred them to the public prosecutor on charges of assembling, resisting the authorities, firing on policemen, and possessing unlicensed firearms. The public prosecution office ordered they be detained for 15 days pending investigation.

A responsible security source affirmed to MENA that the police forces used all legal measures to confront the demonstration. The source said the police will deal firmly with anyone encroaching upon legitimacy and law.

Mubarak Comments on Soviet Jews' Emigration

NC2301104690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his appreciation and support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent peace initiative calling on Iran to come to the negotiating table.

In remarks to journalists following his visit to the International Book Fair today, President Mubarak described the Iraqi president's initiative as very good. He said: We support this initiative and urge Iran to follow this course.

Asked about the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel through Hungary and whether this poses a danger to the Arab nation, President Mubarak said: We do not approve of this. I believe the United States has protested to Israel in this connection.

In conclusion, President Mubarak called on the entire Arab nation, and not only Egypt, to act in the face of this situation.

'Arafat's Adviser on Uprising, Emigration

NC1701162590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Dr Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has asserted that Egypt is a full partner in the peace process. He said that the Egyptian political leadership does not exert any pressure on the PLO to make concessions for the sake of the peace process. He noted that Egypt is the only country which has a committee for supporting the intifadah. He said Egypt is leading efforts to form a popular Arab front to support the intifadah.

In a lecture he delivered at Cairo University's Political Research and Studies Center last night, Dr Sha'th emphasized that the intifadah will continue and escalate to the point of total civil disobedience in order to create an atmosphere of crisis in Israel.

He added that it is possible for this atmosphere to be transferred to the United States so that it will exert pressure on Israel in view of the fact that the both the Egyptian 10 points and the Baker plan on settling the issue have reached a semi-deadlock.

He pointed out that the current Palestinian strategy aims at forging an alliance with forces inside Israel that oppose the Israeli Government's stand for the sake of peace and the good of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. President 'Arafat's political adviser also referred to the changes that have occurred within the Israeli political structure. He noted that 25 percent of the Knesset members accept negotiating with the PLO, holding an international peace conference, and establishing a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

Concerning current Arab support for the intifadah, Dr Nabil Sha'th said that Saudi Arabia pays $6 million per month and that Iraq comes second in this regard. However, he added, the rest of the Arab countries are not providing sufficient assistance to alleviate the suffering caused by the repressive practices of the Israeli occupation.

Sha'th said that the intifadah has inflicted heavy losses on Israel. In 1989, he said, 41 Israeli soldiers were killed [as received]. Israel's economic losses thus far have reached $6.5 billion.

Concerning the increase in the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel, Dr Sha'th said that this is the result of the United States' creating obstacles to the immigration of Soviet Jews to the United States while facilitating their immigration to Israel. He added that we can ask the Soviet Union as a friendly country to press for more freedom for Soviet Jews to immigrate to the United States rather than to the occupied territories.

In his lecture, Dr Sha'th explained the stages of the Palestinian revolution and its difference from other liberation movements in view of the fierce nature of the enemy, which is not content with mere occupation but which seeks to uproot the entire population and eradicate the Palestinian identity. He also reviewed the bestial practices applied by the Israeli occupation forces to quell the Palestinian revolution, including the demolition of homes and villages and the confiscation of 88 percent of water resources in Palestine.

AL-AHRAM Rejects Shamir's Call for Annexation

NC2401071490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper criticizes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's call to annex the occupied West Bank and Gaza and turn them into new Jewish homelands.

The paper says that the timing of this call is not in Israel's favor because it coincides with Palestinian flexibility, the desire to further the peace efforts, and approval of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

The paper notes that Shamir wants this call to be an instrument of pressure on all forces seeking to end the occupation. It adds that he wants to revive the "Jewish refugees' movement" so as to resist the calls for leaving the West Bank and Gaza under the pretext that they are part of the promised land.

The paper concludes by saying: We and the United States reject such calls.

Editorial Criticizes Israeli Election Plan

NC1801080090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM criticizes Israel's stand on efforts to settle the Middle East dispute, especially recent statements about Israel's intention to hold elections in the occupied territories unilaterally.

In its editorial today, the paper points out that "the goal of this Israeli attempt is to elect Palestinian personalities with whom Israel can negotiate and, subsequently, avoid any future negotiations with a delegation representing Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories who are PLO members."

The paper says the Israeli attempt to promote such elections is likely to be stepped up at a time when there is a growing tendency within Israel to negotiate with the PLO.

AL-AHRAM adds that this Israeli campaign will also be intensified as a result of U.S. silence on severe Israeli criticism of the Baker plan, despite Israel's negative stand on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the build of a state under the leadership of the PLO, their only legitimate representative. The campaign also comes at a time when there is not much hope of holding an Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli meeting in Washington.

The paper asks whether the PLO will boycott this possible Israeli step, provided that there is a unanimous stand in the occupied territories, to prove to public opinion that it stands alone in the field, or whether it will try to take part in this process to prove its overwhelming success through Palestinians who are loyal to it. In the latter case, the PLO will have repeated the experience of the 1976 municipal elections. These resulted in the success of loyal PLO followers whom official Israeli terrorism rendered permanently physically disabled in 1980, the paper concludes.

Sudan

SPLA Reports Killing 55 Government Troops

EA2301181790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of the "Bright Star" campaign in major battle that lasted 7 hours yesterday, 22 Jan, from 0800 to 1500 hours, inflicted very heavy casualties in men and material against an enemy convoy that is moving from Juba in a futile attempt to rescue the besieged garrison of Yei. The enemy lost 55 killed, many more wounded and several vehicles were destroyed.

Two soldiers who defected to the "Bright Star" campaign—one corporal and one sergeant-major—have been absorbed into the "Bright Star" campaign with their ranks and are now fighting against the convoy. They have reported that soldiers of the so-called Usud al-Ghaba [lions of the Bush] are at the verge of mutiny. They refused to advance any further to Yei. The convoy is pinned down 55 miles from Juba and 45 miles from Yei.

The "Bright Star" campaign commander here calls on the soldiers of the Usud al-Ghaba to either join the SPLA or go back to Juba in peace. SPLA will not attack them if they go back to Juba or simply go to your village if you are from the area. More "Bright Star" campaign forces have arrived in the area, and if the convoy insists [break in transmission] to proceed, surely it will be destroyed. Fellow soldiers in the Usud al-Ghaba force, why do you die for the clique of generals who have given you no respect? You have to do as you are told by the command of the "Bright Star" campaign. Join the SPLA or move on foot, or return to Juba, as certain death is the only thing awaiting you. The SPLA tells you the truth.

General Command Says Rebels Driven From Juba

EA2301190190 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jan (SUNA)—A responsible source at the General Command of the People's Armed Forces has said that the random shelling of the outskirts of the town of Juba last Sunday [21 January] by the outlaws affected areas inhabited by displaced persons, and inflicted some losses on them.

In a statement to SUNA, the source said that the armed forces had chased away the outlaws, who had now fled far away from the area.

Meanwhile Mr (Benjamin Warile), the acting governor of Equatoria, yesterday morning toured the shelled area. He appealed to the people to stay calm and disciplined. He assured them that the armed forces were capable of deterring the outlaws.

SPLA Reports Clash With Troops in Upper Nile

EA2301190690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Sudanese People's Liberation Army forces around Bentiu under the operational command of Alternate Commander Elijah Hontop, and overall command of alternate Commander Kuol Deng Ajak, have ambushed an enemy force between Bentiu and Rub Kona. After a brief and fierce engagement the enemy forces ran in disarray, leaving 2 dead bodies behind. Two G-3 rifles were captured—numbers 075112 and number 07140. Five enemy soldiers were seriously wounded. The dead soldiers were identified as Sergeant Major Muhammad Khamis al-Ja'li, military number 244146, and Lieutenant Major Muhammad Bakhit Abdullah, military number 183822.

Minister on Blue Nile Dams, Fighting in Kajo Kaji

JN2301073990 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 21 Jan 90 p 1

[By 'Uthman Sayyid Ahmad]

[Excerpt] Khartoum—'Ali Muhammad Shammu, Sudanese minister of information and culture and official spokesman for the Sudanese Government, has stated that Ethiopia plans to build dams on the source of the Blue Nile "Tana Lake" without consulting the Sudanese Government. An agreement signed by Sudan and Ethiopia in 1902 stipulates that consultations be held before carrying out such projects.

In an exclusive statement to AL-YAWM, he said that Ethiopia's acts constitute a flagrant violation of that agreement and the fact that Ethiopia is allowing the Israeli enemy to participate in the construction of these dams threatens the security of Sudan and Egypt in particular and the Arab countries in general.

The minister added that Ethiopia built a huge dam on the sources of the Blue Nile 3-4 years ago to store 51 billion cubic meters of water without consulting Sudan during the planning or construction stages.

He continued that Sudan will make every effort to block the suspect projects, which threaten Sudan's security and that of the countries that share the Nile waters, especially Egypt, and that Sudan will also continue to expose the dangerous Israeli role in Ethiopia against the whole Arab nation.

'Ali Shammu also said that forces from Malawi and Zambia equipped with heavy military hardware, including 40-tube multi-launch rockets and heavy artillery, crossed the Ugandan border, entered the Kajo Kaji area, and participated in fighting along with John Garang against the regular Sudanese Army over the past weeks, but the Sudanese Army repulsed the offensive, killed 400 soldiers of Garang's forces, and evacuated the 500-man garrison of Kajo Kaji without any human losses in order to trap Garang's forces. Later, the plan succeeded and the rebels were besieged and routed, although two armored helicopters belonging to a neighboring country in the south participated in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Joint Talks With Zaire End; Communique Issued

EA2201120090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The joint ministerial committee between Sudan and Zaire has concluded its proceedings in Kinshasa and has issued the final communique. The Sudanese side was headed by Sa'id 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, the foreign minister, while that of Zaire was headed by citizen Mobutu Nyiwa, state commissioner for international cooperation.

The joint communique discussed the meetings which took place between Sa'id Sahlul and President Mobutu Sese Seko as well as officials in his government, during which Mr Sahlul handed President Mobutu a written message on bilateral issues from lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolutionary Command Council chairman. The two sides stressed the importance of consolidating bilateral cooperation, and expressed their desire to encourage and promote commercial and economic exchange in accordance with agreements signed between the two countries.

Sa'id Sahlul underscored Sudan's desire to link the national electricity network to the proposed high voltage power line from Inga Basin in Zaire to Aswan in Egypt.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at their identical views on African and international issues. The two sides hailed the efforts by the presidents of the two countries aimed at achieving African integration.

The two delegations thanked President Mobutu for his decision to open the borders, pointing out that this would lead to the streamlining of trade activities between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to sign the proposal on an agreement between the two countries' news agencies, SUNA and AZAP, later in Khartoum. The Zairean side pointed out that the proposals for consular and judicial agreements as well as on the exchange of criminals and other issues would be studied and examined and would be signed during the next meeting of the ministerial committee which will take place in Khartoum.

The two sides also agreed to sign a protocol to establish a special joint committee for defense and security. The date and place of signing will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Khalifah Asserts 'Success' of Nairobi Talks

PM1101142590 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16 Jan 90 pp 16-17

[Interview with Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council and head of the delegation at the negotiations in Nairobi between the government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement by Muhammad al-Shaykh Husayn in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Husayn] While you see and describe the results of the recent Nairobi meeting as positive, the whole world talks about its failure, and Carter has confirmed this.

[Khalifah] Although the meeting was held and we said it was successful, radios reported that it was a failure. But the meeting was positive because at it we agreed on three fundamental, not procedural, points which constitute a basis for a solution.

In the movement they say that the meeting was a failure because it did not include the procedural points which they presented at the negotiating table—namely, abolishing or freezing the Islamic Shari'ah, abolishing joint defense agreements, and lifting the state of emergency.

As for the fundamental points, which we regard as a success, they are: our agreement to regard the national dialogue resolutions as beginnings of a solution in terms of determining the Sudanese identity, distributing wealth, and determining the system of rule—which all prompted the ideological disagreement that turned into an armed conflict.

The second fundamental agreement is our agreement to convene a constitutional conference, which is different in both form and substance, because at past meetings it was a vague idea, but now national dialogue resolutions constitute its agenda.

We also agreed on how to draw up a permanent constitution for Sudan via a referendum—the third fundamental point. The disagreement was over the merging of the two armies and the formation of a broad-based government, to which, in principle, we do not object.

[Husayn] By the formation of a broad-based government do you mean the the participation of other party or unionist quarters in power?

[Khalifah] Our strong desire to establish peace prompts us to agree to form a broad-based government in which two parties would participate. The first is the government and the second is those brandishing their arms in the People's Movement.

We may send to them Dr Husayn Abu-Salih, who was affiliated with the Democratic [Unionist] Party; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, who was affiliated with the [National] Islamic Front; or Mahmud Bashir Jamma', who was affiliated with the Ummah Party.

And when these people participate they will represent the government, not their their former parties, because we have abolished parties in Sudan. That is our concept of the broad-based government idea. But in the movement they have internal communist links which consider the war in the south an ideological war of a communist nature.

On that basis, they demand the exclusion of the sectarian parties—namely, the Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Islamic Front—from that government. And they demand that the Communist Party, unions, and the other leftist parties participate in it because they believe in democracy! [passage omitted]

[Husayn] You speak about federalism as if it is the magic solution to Sudan's problems, whereas others do not believe this.

[Khalifah] Sudan is a vast country with an area of 1 million square miles. It encompasses geographical, cultural, religious, and racial diversity which, if not contained through an ideal method of rule, will lead to fragmentation and splittism.

The ideal thing—and there is much historical evidence—is to find a system which respects that multiplicity and grants that diversity freedom of expression.

All this can only be achieved via a federalism that allows every province to exempt itself from laws that are religious in nature, since there is no compulsion in religion. And I believe that the application of federalism is the magic key to a solution to our problems, because it will grant every province the right to build itself under one unified Sudan.

And, God willing, 1990 will witness the application of federalism in Sudan. A number of technical committees are currently working to prepare for that application, which will also resolve the southern Sudan problem. [passage omitted]

Official Praises Talks

EA2301073090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Brigadier Pio Yukwan Deng, Revolution Command Council member and general supervisor of the southern council, gave an interview to a BBC reporter in Nairobi this noon. They discussed political issues in the country and the current situation. Brig Yukwan stressed that the government aims to establish peace in the country this year. He emphasized the united voice of the Sudanese people during the national dialogue conference which had been held to solve the country's issues.

His excellency declared that the Nairobi talks had not failed, but had smoothed the ground for understanding and more communications for arriving at a comprehensive peace in the country through peaceful dialogue.

Tunisia

King Hassan, Ben Ali Meet in Tunis

LD2401010990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamed, the crown prince, received this evening at his residence on the Royal Ship "Marrakech" at Halk El Oued Port in Tunis the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. His majesty and the president held talks for approximately 1 hour.

Then his majesty, accompanied by his royal highness the crown prince, hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the Tunisian president. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Briefs Ben Ali on Flood Damage

LD2301214190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The head of state is following with much interest the situation resulting from the floods which swept some of the governorates of the Republic. He has asked for the acceleration of the necessary measures to confront this situation, through coordination between all the government organs involved as well as the regional authorities. [passage omitted]

This morning at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali received a report from Interior Minister Chadli Neffati, and Social Affairs Minister Moncer Rouisi, about the situation in the governorates of Tawzar, Qafsah, Sidi Bu-Zayd, Qabis, Qibili, al-Qasrayn, Madanin, and Tatawin, which were swept by floods due to continuous heavy rainfall, resulting in the isolation of these governorates, a number of towns and residential areas, and the collapse of, and damage to, about 4,000 dwellings.

The president of the Republic was briefed on the relief operations carried out by units of the national army, the internal security forces, and civil defense, to save those who have been harmed by the floods. Many families have been rehoused in public establishments and educational institutions, as well as youth hostels; they have received needed supplies, such as food and blankets. In view of the seriousness of the situation his excellency the president has decided to send a number of ministers to investigate the situation in the areas damaged by the floods. [passage omitted]

This evening, at the ministry, the interior minister held a news conference during which he gave additional information about the situation in the flood areas and the measures which have been taken to deal with the situation. Here is a dispatch by our correspondent:

[Correspondent] Unprecedented quantities of rain fell on several governorates in the Republic, resulting in human losses, and considerable material losses, such as roads, railways and bridges. This is what Interior Minister Chadli Neffati said at the news conference which he held some time ago at the Interior Ministry. He pointed out that the quantity of rainfall in some governorates reached 217 mm. The governorates which have been hit are: Tawzar, Qafsah, Sidi Bu-Zayd, al-Qasrayn, Qabis, Qibili, Tatawin, [name indistinct] and Safaqis—south of the governorate. These governorates are now isolated from each other and can only be reached by air. There are also towns which are isolated from each other. As for the railways, traffic has totally been suspended. The number of people who are missing and dead up to now is 18.

The minister also pointed out that more than 4,000 dwellings have collapsed and have become unsafe. He said that several measures have been taken, including the transfer of a large number of families from their dwellings and housing them in other places, as well as making available to them the minimum of necessities in terms of food, blankets, etc. In view of this situation all educational institutions, cultural centers, youth hostels, and some primary schools and some other offices have been opened to house the people. Chadli Neffati noted that the relief operation is continuing and that all organs are following with concern the development of the situation in all these governorates. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Crown Prince Says Democracy 'Never Disappeared'

JN1801184690 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 Jan 90 pp 1, 9

[By editor-in-chief Ahmad al-Jarallah; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Democracy never disappeared from Kuwait with the dissolution of the National Assembly, His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah announced yesterday.

"The state, headed by His Highness the Amir is not against popular participation, but it is important to arrive at a formula through which we can overcome the negative aspects of the past experience," Shaykh Sa'd stressed. He also said the government will introduce several changes in the 1990s.

In an exclusive and candid inteview with the ARAB TIMES, Shaykh Sa'd said that what disappeared was the shape of the Parliament and not the democratic process."

"The constitution remains with all its clauses and the state with its well established traditions, Shaykh Sa'd emphasised. "We remain a state with officials who listen and consult, who never erect any barriers or hurdles between us and our people. This is what life has taught us in this country."

Shaykh Sa'd said that Kuwait is not a huge country to make us speak with each other through rigid laws or through offices where contacting officials and meeting them becomes very complicated. He added: "Our Amir shares with the people their happiness and sad moments and always is in touch with their demands."

Shaykh Sa'd affirmed: "The popular participation is within our conscience and it is we who have been emphasising and calling for it."

He added: "When popular participation took a legal shape in the sixties it emanated from the government's wish to emphasise the old tradition of Kuwaitis in sharing opinions, brotherhood, one family spirit and their strong-bonds of national unity."

"This is the true conscience and desire of the state through its political leadership and reflect the feelings of the Amir, Shaykh Sa'id added.

"We implemented decisions conscientiously, the Crown Prince said.

Formula

When told that after suspending the parliamentary life in July 1986, it was said that the suspension was temporary and that the parliamentary life was returning, Shaykh Sa'd said that this was affirmed by the Amir.

"Every citizen who cares about this nation knows this very well," Shaykh Sa'd said and added, "in spite of the fact that parliament was suspended, it did not abolish the popular participation.

"Our doors were kept wide open for consultation and exchange of views."

However, he said that the experiment of the past was characterised with a number of adverse factors. This was specially clear because of the conditions that prevailed in the Gulf region. The citizens rejected any move that could revive class and ethnic conflicts or any talks on "sectarianism" that comes from here or there."

"This is exactly what the Kuwaiti citizens wanted to avoid," Shaykh Sa'd said.

"We on our part say yes. There were some shortcomings in our previous parliamentary experience and I don't say democratic shortcomings."

"We wanted to avoid those negative aspects in order to make the popular participation for unity, to create the one family feeling, a participation to show the state's authority and reflect its civilized nature," he said.

He said that arriving at this formula can be brought about through a civilised national dialogue which aims at spreading a relaxed atmosphere between the official body, the executive authority and other authorities.

Thus, "We agree with the popular participation, but it is important to arrive at the formula that can answer the question.

"In what form would the participation be? Shaykh Sa'd queried.

"We had hoped that this formula could have been ready by now, but the Gulf region passed through unprecedented turmoil. There was the war between Iraq and Iran and security affairs acquired the attention and concern of the entire region. There was the economic recession which hit the whole world and left adverse influences on the region. Additionally, there were many large international issues, including containing the tension in many areas of the world, which all left its impact on the region," the Crown Prince explained.

"The winds were blowing on us fiercely and strongly, but out region was overcome those difficult days and we are just experiencing a feeling of relaxation from last year, Shaykh Sa'd added.

This year, the government at the highest level is taking every care to receive the 1990 with a sense of new direction and a new vision and we are determined to begin the 90s with a strong performance at all levels, including economic, social and civilised.

"Obviously, we will not allow the government authority to be overlooked at a time when it is deeply involved in boosting performance at these important levels that concern the life of the Kuwaiti citizen," Shaykh Sa'd affirmed.

Replying to a question on the nature of the popular participation and the timing of such contributions, the Crown Prince and Premier said that this was a priority issue with the state, even prior to the emergence of any claim for democracy.

"We have targetted programmes where any talk with people concerned in this country should be based on programmes which reflect the desires of the public," Shaykh Sa'd said.

"I was firmly hoping that what transpired should be conducted through fraternal dialogues which we are accustomed to in Kuwait.

"I reiterate that the 1990s will witness several changes and we will introduce such changes to our people who have witnessed several initiatives adopted by the state."

"The state here was not and is not a state of violence, or of political prisons or of a state of secret police. It is rather the state of integrated civilization and we deal quietly with those who try to provoke us, provided the provocation should not affect the state's dignity," Shaykh Sa'd said.

He added that our ultimate goal is to protect the security as well as stability of citizens.

Kuwait currently enjoys a paramount political position, with strong stability and economic strengths and its performance is extremely appreciated by her citizens who spare no efforts to preserve their country.

Shaykh Sa'd said: "We approach our issues with forbearance and wisdom without distinguishing the white thread from the black one."

Returning to the issue of the popular contribution being among the state's priorities, the Crown Prince and Premier said that after the situation in the region had stabilised, the state and its leadership had never forgotten to announce that the popular contribution was one of its objective to be achieved.

He commented that the format of such contribution should be congruent with Kuwait citizens' traditions who are keen to see their country as an oasis for security and stability and preserve the spirit of the one family prevailing in the country and to keep it away from any denominational conflicts.

"When we talk about the shape of this homeland and its citizens, we dissociate ourselves from involving our country with events that occurred in other countries which resulted in those countries to be torn apart," Shaykh Sa'd said.

On freedom of expression in Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd said: "Who says we have prevented people from talking and who says we are against freedom of speech?"

He added: "We are not against the other opinion. On the contrary, we listen to it. But it is vital that these opinions should be honest, not harm the dignities of people and should not be tabled without accusations, basis and facts."

To substantiate, Shaykh Sa'd said: "The other opinion is there and is being circulated. The state, with all its capable authority to practise its rights, have left the reply to the Kuwaiti citizens. However, facts alone will always prevail."

"Much has been said and it was said while the government was watching and listening. We know that this talk has been repeated and those who said it are repeating and those who said it are repeating themselves, because their talk has no meaning or substance," the Crown Prince said.

Shaykh Sa'd added that in the circumstances, all must know that the state is very concerned about the security and stability of the country.

"In this respect, the state is practising its civilised role like any other government does in establishing its authority. The Kuwaiti citizens are very much concerned about their security and stability and we attach primary importance to this matter, the Crown Prince said.

The Crown Prince added: "I always wished that every thing should have happened through brotherly dialogue and civilised discussions, for they are the only means through which we can reach the desired target. When there is a demand for popular participation and as we support it, thus we are not different here. But it is important to know in what way the participation should be and realise the interests of our country and people in it."

"As I said before, this country was built in a civilised way and attracted respect and esteem in the eyes of the world. It's enough for Kuwait that it overcame many problems that many other countries failed to pass through, because we took a precaution for everything thanks to the guidance of our political leadership. I don't say that the precautionary measures were completely perfect, but we were, through our leadership, well aware of the problems of the previous stage and the many problems it left on the world."

Paper Calls For Return of Parliament

JN2201075590 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 20 Jan 90 p 1

[Editorial: "This Is the Right Time"]

[Text] Time is a decisive factor in the success of any decision. Many decisions fail to achieve their goals because they either are premature or cook for too long and burn. The right time is when all minds are prepared to accept the decision or are expected to welcome it. This is the right time.

On the international level, we see East approaching West and West approaching East, and everyone is seeking more popular participation in decisionmaking and shaping the future. Today's world is not a world of conflict and polarization, but one of participation and cooperation. It is a world of harmony among nations and also within nations themselves.

On the Arab and regional levels, circumstances are moving toward a kind of internal Arab peace in harmony with this international trend. The regional problem of the Arabian Gulf is coming to an end, and the first signs of stability are appearing on the horizon.

Our society locally now is riper and more fortified, and the negative factors largely have vanished. Current circumstances certainly are completely different from those that led to freezing parliamentary life and imposing censorship on publications—censorship that had no time limit, but was determined by negative considerations that have ended with the passage of time.

Popular participation and longing for a better life are not new in the life of Kuwaitis, but are deep-rooted in their minds and in the ideologies of rulers and ruled alike. This is taken for granted and is well known by everyone, near and far. No one can deny it. This is the right and historic time for shaking the dust off this fact and resuming work within the political-constitutional framework. We have this formula, God be praised, a formula which also is deep-rooted in our Constitution, which we—rulers and ruled—have accepted as organizational policy.

We say this is the right time because today is better than tomorrow. A decision today will constitute a reconciliation with ourselves, will be in harmony with the past and the future, and will be a positive response to the world's trend. We do not want the decision to be a result of conflict or force. We want it to respond to everyone's desire.

Our society is ready to understand the contemporary concept of parliamentary democracy. Our society also knows this concept means reconciliation and cooperation for the general welfare and has lost its previous conflicting ideas and positions.

Looking at matters from one angle no longer will work in our contemporary world. We need different angles to understand our issues, because such a view is more comprehensive and leads to better understanding of the reality of our causes.

The best and most scientific vehicle for conveying the people's desires to the political leadership is the parliament. Otherwise, governments rely on reports and rumors that cannot express the truth, or will depend on direct contacts with the citizens, which physically are impossible considering the large numbers of citizens and the lack of time. We have the vehicle—the Constitution—and we have the method. We therefore await the promised decision.

If we want good standing in the contemporary world, the international trend toward freedom should be reflected in our media. Free and mature newspapers are the real courtroom of democratic life. They moreover are part of the popular control of the parliamentary process. Through participation and a responsible and free press, decisionmaking becomes a collective responsibility, and no one individual or one side will assume the responsibility and burden of the decision.

Oman

'Arafat Arrives 20 Jan; Welcomed by Qabus

JN2001083890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Muscat, 20 Jan (WAKH)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Muscat today on a 2-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. OMAN NEWS AGENCY said His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id led those who received 'Arafat on his arrival.

Confers With Sultan on 'Palestine'

JN2001145390 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat [Abu 'Ammar], president of the state of Palestine, conducted a round of talks at the al-'Alam Palace today at noon. Talks were attended for the Omani side by General 'Ali Ibn-Majid al-Ma'mari, minister of the Palace Affairs; Khalfan Ibn-Nasir al-Wahaybi, minister of electricity and water and head of the honor escort mission accompanying the Palestinian president; and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs. The members of the official delegation accompanying his excellency the head of the state of Palestine attended for the Palestinian side.

In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY following the round of talks, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that during the talks a general review was made of the Palestine question, especially in light of the extensive consultations under way to arrange for a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo. Talks likewise dealt with the intensive contacts the PLO is conducting with the states that have influence on the Israeli side regarding this, the minister said. The situation in the Arab region in general, he said, was reviewed. He added his excellency the Palestinian president presented a full explanation from the Palestinian perspective and the Arab states' stances in this respect at the present stage, as well as in the subsequent stage. Bin-'Alawi stated His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has affirmed the importance of the Palestinian policy at this stage and the need to back and bolster efforts being made for bringing about the planned Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo as a means for a comprehensive solution to all differences between the Arabs on the one hand, and the Jews on the other within the framework of an international peace conference, so the United Nations can establish the necessary guarantees for all parties in the Middle East to achieve stability.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said a closed meeting was conducted between his majesty the sultan and His Excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat prior to the talks. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Leaves for U.S. Visit of 'Great Importance'

JN2301180090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has left for the United States with God's care and protection on an official visit lasting several days at the invitation of U.S. President George Bush. The visit will begin tomorrow, Wednesday, 24 January. [passage omitted]. Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, and a number of members of the Consultative Council, the government, the Standing Committee, and the Shura Council, are accompanying the president secretary general on this visit.

In a statement to SABA', the president leader said the visit is of great importance because it will give us a chance to discuss with President George Bush and senior U.S. Administration officials ways of promoting relations between our country and the United States, as well as issues of common interest on both the Arab and international levels, foremost of which are the Palestine question—our Arab nation's central issue—and the issue of a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue.

Comments on Trip, Regional Issues

JN2301212390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has expressed his delight in visiting the United States, especially at this stage when the world is experiencing a number of important developments. The visit, he said, will allow an exchange of views with U.S. President George Bush and senior U.S. Administration officials on several issues, whether concerning bilateral relations—to promote the existing relations of friendship and open new horizons for them—or concerning pan-Arab issues, especially the Middle East situation and the Palestinian question. He expressed great hopes the United States will be able to push forward the Middle East peace process toward a more advanced position and in a way enabling the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate rights.

In a statement today to the newspaper AL-HAYAH, published in London and Cairo, the president explained the Palestine question has imposed itself on the world community and now is enjoying international solicitude as a just humanitarian issue. This makes it imperative for the United States to play a more effective role to bring about a just peace satisfying the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He stressed the importance of dealing with the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and of its participation as a basic party to the formulation of a just, desirable solution to the Palestine question, the crux of the Middle East conflict.

On the reestablishment of Yemeni unity, the brother president stressed our people are anxious for unity and determined to achieve it, inasmuch as it is the great embodiment of their aspirations, stuggle, sacrifice, and righteous martyrs. The Yemeni people, he added, are ready to protect this unity and look after it by translating all their aspirations for progress and comprehensive development. Those who want to achieve such an important strategic action, he said, must pay the price, no matter how heavy. In their endeavor to achieve unity, our people are ready for sacrifice as they did when they protected the revolution.

In answer to another question, the brother president said: I have repeatedly stressed we are not against the opposition which targets reforms. This is a democratic phenomenon characterizing all peoples that practice true democracy. We welcome other opinions and national opposition that seeks reform and construction. He said we have traversed the recent stage with the latest unionist steps. He added: You must have followed all the steps taken since the Aden agreement of 30 November. The declaration of Yemeni unity is a solution to all problems. The president explained in this respect that Article 39 of the constitution of the unionist state provides for the right of all citizens to organize themselves politically and professionally within a structured national framework. He added: In the press statement issued after the Sanaa unity meeting, we invited everyone to take part in the march of unity to build and develop the united Yemeni homeland and achieve its prosperity, security, and welfare. The press statement also announced a full general amnesty.

The brother president stressed we all are inclined toward reforms with a view to entrenching the unionist steps and rectifying all negative phenomena and practices. The Sanaa press statement also stressed the need for full reforms under the shadow of the unionist state, he said, adding the constitution of the unionist state contains all that will achieve reforms in the unified Yemeni homeland.

The brother president expressed happiness with the advanced steps of integration that so far have been taken within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] in various fields. He added there are other steps that will be approved and implemented within a specific timetable. He said: We all work within the framework of the ACC to achieve the aspirations and objectives for the sake of which the ACC was established, especially in the field of economic cooperation and integration, as well as political coordination, which mandates we continue to exert efforts to resolve any Arab problems, including the Lebanese issue. He said we all work for the sake of safeguarding Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence.

Replying to a question by the paper on his role in Arab reconciliation, the brother president explained: We are contributing to our Arab brother leaders' efforts in containing any problems facing inter-Arab relations. We were exhilarated with the resumption of relations between our brothers in Egypt and Syria. Our happiness will be greater when normal ties are restored between our brothers in Iraq and Syria, God willing.

Replying to another question, the brother president affirmed the two parts of Yemen are linked by close relations with their neighbors, headed by Saudi Arabia. These relations will be enhanced further under the unity state, which will be an important factor in promoting bilateral relations and consolidating regional peace and security. The brother president said: We acquainted our brother leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council states with all our unionist steps and their importance for maintaining regional peace and stability. He noted they had blessed Yemeni national steps. He added: We do not believe reuniting the one family in the one homeland poses any danger. On the contrary, reunion means cooperation and joint capabilities to remove backwardness in all its forms. It also means a greater enhancement of the Arab nation's efforts and resources.

Replying to a question on the border demarcation, the brother president declared we are linked by close brotherly and distinguished relations with Saudi Arabia. He said: We are happy with the positive outcome of these relations on all levels of cooperation and with continued coordination between the two fraternal countries' leaderships. I have stated on more than one occasion the border problems among Arab countries were left behind by the colonialist rulers, who were eager to leave this issue unsettled with the aim of exploiting it after their departure, to incite differences and preoccupy the Arab nation with marginal issues and affect its ability to resolve its main issues. He said nothing prevents the resolution of any border problem through dialogue and brotherly understanding in a manner guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the two brotherly countries.

In his press statement, the brother president described our country's relations with the Soviet Union as close, historical relations enhanced by continued cooperation and the Soviet Union's support for our country and revolution in the darkest circumstances. He said: Relations at this level are not affected by any changes because they are built on firm bases of understanding, mutual respect, and joint interests represented by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between our two friendly countries. We also are bound by good, developed ties with the United States, he noted.

Oil Purchase Talks With Turkey Begin 23 Jan

TA2301161690 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1550 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad (A.A.)—Turkish and Iraqi delegations started talks here today on Turkey's oil purchases from Iraq and bilateral technical cooperation.

The Turkish delegation is led by the general director of the Turkish Petroleum Company (TPAO), Ozer Altan, and the Iraqi delegation by Iraqi Oil Ministry Undersecretary Sami al-Sharif.

AA has been informed that the delegations will review the two countries' relations in the petroleum trade as well as the expansion of the Turkish-Iraqi petroleum pipeline.

Iraq supplies Turkey with about 40 million metric tons of crude oil from its northern fields in Kirkuk through a 950-kilometer pipeline to the Mediterranean.

Iraq has two pipelines carrying its oil to the Mediterranean for export, carrying a total 1.6 million barrels per day [mbd].

Turkey proposed last year to expand Iraq's second export pipeline so that Iraq's overall export capacity northwards through Turkey be increased to two mbd.

Minister on Oil Reserves, Quota, Export Capacity

JN2301115290 Baghdad INA in English 1018 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 23, INA—Iraqi Minister of Oil, Mr 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim said Iraq's proven oil reserve exceeds the previously declared 100 billion barrels by far and that explorations and surveys are under way to define the extra proven reserves.

The minister of oil told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that his ministry is now engaged in re-evaluating the country's oil reserves, adding that it has "become a common fact that there are large oil reserves in Iraq yet to be discovered."

"The ministry's seismic teams are continuing exploration works, while exploration-oriented drilling operations are in the offing. As a result many new proven reserves have been discovered."

He did not give figures, but said they will be announced in due course. In previous oil reserve explorations, the minister said, some areas containing deep-ground petroleum reservoirs were not explored. Such areas are now under exploration and Iraq's proven oil reserve will definitely rise by a considerable figure once the exploration operations are completed.

He noted that the announced proven reserve represents the evaluation of some of the explorations and reservoir studies which ended in 1987 while those evaluated later were not included in those figures. "Ever since, Iraqi exploration teams have been engaged to find new reserves horizontally and vertically," he said.

According to Oil and Gas Journal, a reupted and reliable publication dealing with petroleum industry, Iraq comes second to Saudi Arabia as the world's largest oil reserve state, with an oil reserve slightly less than double that of the Soviet Union and four times as that of the United States. Saudi Arabia's oil reserve stands at 250 billion barrels, Iraq at 100 billion, the Soviet Union at 59 billion and the United States at 25.3 billion barrels.

Speaking on Iraq's recently inaugurated trans-Saudi Arabia pipeline, the minister said that it had already increased Iraq's oil export capacity. However, he affirmed that Iraq is committed to its production quota of (3.14) million barrels per day (BPD), that Baghdad will not violate OPEC's production quota accord and that it expects all other members to do the same. He said that Iraq's export capacity now stands at around (5) million barrels per day (BPD), whic can be exported through three main export channels, via Turkey, at a rate of 1.65 million BPD, via-Saudi Arabia at 1.65 million BPD and via Arab Gulf waters at 1.6 million BPD.

"The current export capacity and channels ensure for us a high degree of export flexibility, bearing in mind the export bottlenecks Iraq used to suffer previously," he said.

The minister added that Iraq is now actively using its Arab Gulf terminal to transport its oil. Three berths at Iraq's al-Bakr terminal are now in full operation feeding large oil tankers. The fourth berth will be ready for operation in early February.

The minister called for hastening consultations to hold dialogue between oil exporters and consumers with the objective of maintaining stable prices and steady market. Such a dialogue, the minister said, would also ensure a steady revenue for exporters and secure continuous flow of oil to consumers. He added that consultations among OPEC and non-OPEC states towards holding such a dialogue were under way at present. Generally, the parties concerned stand for holding such a dialogue with few exceptions like Britain which rejects it, he said.

Mr 'Abd-al-Rahim then tackled the OPEC accord on production quotas reached in November 1989 and said that the accord has its positive consequences in terms of price stability. Excluding the United Arab Emirates, all OPEC member-states are now abiding by the OPEC-set production quotas, he said, adding that the UAE had rejected the November accord.

However, the minister dismissed the probability of UAE stand affecting oil prices, saying that the market could cope with any UAE production increase.

The minister said the United States strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) will not affect oil prices, adding that the

U.S. would use its (SPR) only in emergency cases. "Hence, the SPR does not affect oil prices under normal circumstances."

On a proposed OPEC summit, Mr 'Abd-al-Rahim said that a proposed OPEC summit was meant to be held on the 30th anniversary of the organisation. The summit was initiated by Venezuela.

He added that so far, a final decision on holding the summit has not been made. "The proposal is still under deliberation by OPEC ministers of oil. The ministerial committee of the organisation will continue discussing the proposal in its next meeting in March this year," he said. He elaborated that memeber-states have differences on certain issues which need to be settled before holding such a conference and added that differences include production quotas for member-states "which should also be settled before holding the summit."

Touching upon proposals of energy in the light of oil and gas reserves, the minister said that 50 percent of energy required in future decades will continue to come out of oil and gas. "The present status will remain unchanged for decades to come. So far, there appears no economic or environmental need for giving up oil and gas as the main source of energy." He noted that OPEC will remain the backbone of the world's oil and gas reserve, while the Arab Gulf region is the largest holder of such reserves within the organisation. Iraq, meanwhile, is the second after Saudi Arabia in terms of oil reserves and "hence, oil will remain the basic revenue source of Iraq for quite a long time to come," the minister concluded.

Saddam Envoy to Cairo With Message for Mubarak

JN2301114490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, left today for Cairo.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy told INA he is carrying a message from the president to his brother President Husni Mubarak, dealing with the current Arab and international developments. The message also deals with relations between the two fraternal countries and means of promoting them in the interest of the Arab nation's issues and prosperity.

Trade Minister Leaves for Pakistan 24 Jan

JN2401091890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih left for Pakistan today, heading a delegation on a several-day visit.

The delegation, which comprises representatives from the Ministries of Trade, Industry and Military Industrialization, and Oil, will conduct talks with Pakistani officials on means to promote trade relations between Iraq and Pakistan.

Columist Says Remove 'Wall' Between Iraq, Gulf

JN2301170490 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Jan 90 pp 1, 11

[Article by 'Abdallah Ahmad Husayn from Kuwait: "The Arab Berlin Wall"]

[Text] It is stupid for anyone to imagine the doors are open fully between Iraq and the Arab Gulf states. It likewise is stupid for any Arab in the Gulf to imagine there is natural protection for the Gulf Arabs without Iraq or that Iran is lying in wait for everyone.

We realize the nature of those who are alarmed by Iraq's power and pan-Arab unionist orientation. We also realize, however, the destiny of the Gulf Arabs is unity, democracy, and Arabism, and only Iraq is capable of achieving the aspirations of the Arab people. Without Iraq, we will be devoured in broad daylight.

The British colonizers built a Berlin wall between Iraq and the rest of the Peninsula Arabs through puppet rulers. After British rule fell and these satellites disappeared, however, we should wake up from our coma and demolish the Arab Berlin wall as the Germans did.

The three Arab groupings indeed are a step forward, but they are a temporary phase, or should be, after which there should be the aspired and necessary unity, as well as democracy and freedom. It is highly inconceivable Iraq should remain far from all the Arab Peninsula states and far from their joint decisionmaking and joint position, as if it were an Arab state located in the far west or far north of the Arab homeland. It moreover should be noted we do not differentiate between Mauritania in the west and Kuwait and Iraq in the east.

Iraq is an Arab Gulf state. Its Arab destiny, although linked to the Arab nation, is strongly linked to the Arabian Peninsula. Great efforts therefore should be exerted to see Iraq is located in its Arab Gulf position as confirmed by history.

I do not think Iraq is trying to impose itself, nor do I believe it likes to be told by any Arab it should be located in a certain Arab position. As an Arab Gulf citizen, however, I most frankly say certain forces whose objectives are not in the interest of the Arab nation are trying to establish an artificial wall between them and Iraq, even after the fall of the Berlin wall.

Excluding Iraq from the Arabian Peninsula is harmful to Arab causes and the Gulf Arabs. The presence of horrendous non-Arab nationalities which have obvious satanic goals has been the result of the deliberate exclusion of Iraq.

The British colonizers used to fear Iraq's effective power. They prevented it therefore from playing its role, to keep the Peninsula and its emirates ignorant, weak, and blind, and their peoples followers, not citizens. It seems some people have developed a liking for the wall and want to keep it. Iraq therefore was excluded from many meetings, agreements, and groups in the Arabian Peninsula and its western coasts.

Iraq's Arabism and pan-Arab orientation top the reasons that made some parties establish a wall between themselves and Iraq, oblivious of the fact the Arabian Peninsula is part of the Arab homeland.

Iraq is an Arab Gulf state and carrier of the banner of Arabism. It has attained cultural and social freedom. It is the strike force that safeguarded the Gulf from being ruled by satanic ayatollahs after the ominous and defeated Persian invasion. We, the Gulf Arabs, realize Iraq had a role in that and that the Arab Berlin Wall must fall. We advise it be removed by the Arab regimes before it is removed by the Arab popular will.

We view all the Arab borders as Berlin walls that must be removed, and any barrier between any two Arab countries as a Berlin wall that must fall.

Let Iraq therefore be in every group in the Arabian Peninsula, because it has a historical role we expect it to play.

The people in the region have become fed up with the politicians' maneuvers, postponements, and procrastination. Let the fragile wall between the Arab Gulf states and Iraq fall. Afterward, let all the walls among the Arab countries fall. Let us learn from history before we are overtaken by the flood.

Paper Rebuts Syrian Security Claims in Lebanon

JN2301115890 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 23, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad stressed that the Syrian regime was not serious in its slogan about significance of Lebanon to the Syrian security and said that this regime has employed the Lebanese crisis for attaining its interests.

A daily article here today said that this slogan was not more than a link of other false slogans announced by Damascus regime to continue its disintegration of Lebanon and occupation of its territories.

It further added that the Syrian regime resorted to several pretexts to mask intentions and nature of its military presence in Lebanon and claiming that mission of its troops in Lebanon was temporary and not exceeding normalizing conditions and settling disputes in Lebanon.

AL-JUMHURIYAH added that events in Lebanon indicated that the Syrian regime exploited the presence of its troops to promote the production and trafficking of narcotics to the world and establishing gangs for dealing with black market currency and turning Lebanon into a big prison where it exercises brutal crimes against the Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians.

The daily said that statements by Syrian regime leaders on the significance of Lebanon to the Syrian security was a clear lie because Syrian vital security could not be achieved by the presence of its military troops in Lebanon and for the Syrian security is part of the pan-Arab security that could be attained only by the destiny cohesion with the Arab nation and not bias to enemies of the Arabs at the expense of pan-Arab right. [sentence as received]

Assembly Speaker Returns From Egypt, Jordan

JN1401140690 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 14, INA—Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of Iraq's National Assembly returned here last night concluding visits to Egypt and Jordan.

During the visits, Mr. Salih held talks with parliamentarians in both countries on means of promoting parliamentary relations, the role of pariliaments in strengthening brotherly relations among Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries in addition to tasks of the ACC parliamentary committee and agenda of the first meeting scheduled in Baghdad late this January.

Oil Ministry Report Details 1989 Projects

JN1401124990 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 14, INA—The Ministry of Oil carried out its 1989 annual plan with the implementation of many oil projects, which included exploring new oil [as received] expanding others, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER quoted a report issued here by the ministry said.

The ministry last year opened new oil outlets through the Arab Gulf and new pipelines were built immediately after the ceasefire in the Gulf war on August 20, 1988.

On April 8 last year the founding stone of the second strategic pipeline project was laid down.

The 33-month project is being implemented by the oil projects company.

The two-phase project aims at providing flexibility in exporting oil with required quantity and quality.

The first phase of the project included laying down a 570-kilometre pipeline and installing 30 protective stations run by solar energy.

The stations are produced for the first time in Iraq by the Military Industry Commission of the Ministry of Industry.

The first phase also includes installing a major pumping station and other intermediate pumping units to increase the capacity of the pipeline in the second phase of the project.

Meanwhile, the company is implementing 30 projects costing two billion Iraqi dinars.

The projects fall within the five-year plan which started in 1988, said the report.

The report added that according to the plan seven projects were implemented in 1989, nine are to be set up in 1990, ten in 1991 and the dates of four others will be announced soon. They are in east Baghdad, al-Rumaylah, West al-Qurnah, Khurmal and al-Lheis [as received].

Studies and designs are underway for the development of a first national gas field in Iraq known al-Anfal north-east of the country. [sentence as received].

The gas project includes digging seven new fields, repairing an old field and installing a station in the middle of the field to collect gas from other fields.

The station includes a 22-km-long pipeline with a diameter of six inches and another 20-inch diameter 30-km-long.

The pipelines would carry gas to the south Jambour [as received] station, near the Anfal field, from which gas is marketed for local use.

On November 8 last year the third Makman al-Ata' project was inaugurated in the southern province of Basra'. The project is being executed by the North and South Oil Companies.

The third Makman al-Ata' project was completed in 27 months.

Shots Fired From Jordan at IDF Patrol 23 Jan

TA2301211690 Jerusalem Domestic Service on Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has just reported shots were fired tonight from Jordan at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol near Hazeva in the 'Arava. No one was hurt and no damage caused.

Warning To Be Sent

TA2401101890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] An investigation conducted by the commander of the Southern Command indicates the shots fired last night at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol near Hazeva came from an area patrolled at that time by the Jordanian Army. The IDF patrol returned fire.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports a warning apparently will be relayed now to Jordan regarding its responsibility for maintaining calm along the border.

Agreement With U.S. on Arab Delegation Reported

TA2401112690 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 P A2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, "special" correspondent in Cairo Shefi Gabay, and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] Israel and the United States have reached an unofficial agreement on including deportees and East Jerusalem residents in the Palestinian delegation.

In talks recently conducted between senior officials from Prime Minister Shamir's office and from Secretary of State Baker's office, it was agreed Israel will allow residents of East Jerusalem, slotted for participation in the Palestinian delegation, also to be registered as residents of other towns in Judaea and Samaria. When the Palestinian delegation's composition is declared, the delegates will be announced only by name.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asked the United States to keep the agreement secret at least until after the Likud Central Committee convention on 7 February. After this convention, wherein Shamir will demand a vote of confidence for himself and his method, he will be able to lead the Likud to a compromise which will, in turn, lead to a meeting between the three foreign ministers in the United States and a meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo.

Senior political sources, who reported the above, said the only problem remaining unsolved is who will announce composition of the delegation. The PLO insists on announcing the composition from Tunisia. Shamir is opposed vehemently to this.

The Prime Minister's Office last night denied the report saying no agreement has been achieved on either the deportees or inclusion of East Jerusalem residents; it added the prime minister remains adamant in his stand Palestinian notables belonging to East Jerusalem not be included in the Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

The PLO demands East Jerusalem be included in the perimeters of autonomy; therefore, Egypt demanded the United States guarantee if elections are conducted, residents of East Jerusalem, who will be represented at the preliminary talks in Cairo, also will be able to vote. Senior Palestinian elements in the territories have pointed out at this stage the proposed Israeli compromise—according to which East Jerusalem residents identified as PLO supporters will be included in the Cairo talks, provided they appear with a territores identity card—is unacceptable. [passage omitted]

Rabin Offers U.S. 'New Ideas' on Delegation

TA2301194890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Text] In an attempt to solve the problem of composing the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel—the most complex dilemma confronting the planners of the Cairo meeting—Yitzhaq Rabin, acting on his own, brought a few new ideas on his trip to Washington.

The defense minister asked Secretary Baker to ask Egypt whether it will consent to including one or two deportees in the Palestinian delegation whose names will have obtained Israel's agreement.

Rabin further suggested including one or two residents of the territories who live there, but also are residents of East Jerusalem.

We have further learned Rabin proposed to Baker that Egypt, rather than another element, announce composition of the delegation. The defense minister made the Palestinian delegation's composition contingent on its members not belonging to PLO institutions and not having taken part in terrorist attacks.

Regarding inclusion of deportees in the delegation, senior Foreign Ministry sources told us the authority responsible for bringing deportees back to the territories is the defense minister. He was the one who deported, and he is the one who can bring them back. This method was used 8 years ago by former defense minister Ari'el Sharon, who brought back three deportees, including Nadim Zarru, former Ramallah mayor.

As for inclusion of East Jerusalem Arabs, political elements noted tonight that Faysal al-Husayni, for instance, lives in a rented apartment in Jerusalem, while his permanent and registered residence is in Ramallah.

These proposals of Yitzhaq Shamir [as heard, not Rabin], which for the first time were relayed directly from him to the United States, are being probed this week by Secretary Baker and his senior aides.

Last Saturday evening, on the eve of Shim'on Peres' trip to Cairo, Peres and Rabin conducted a meeting at Peres' Tel Aviv residence, at which they coordinated positions. Tomorrow these positions will be discussed at the Mubarak-Peres meeting in Cairo.

The defense minister's bureau refused tonight either to confirm or deny this report.

Rabin 'Not Authorized'

TA2401053890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Differences of opinion again have emerged between the coalition partners, perhaps even a crisis, surrounding Rabin's latest peace proposals. It was reported from the Prime Minister's Office that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was not authorized to raise in his talks with the Americans any suggestions regarding the peace process. In his report to the prime minister, Rabin never mentioned new ideas he had suggested to the Americans which mention inclusion of deportees or Palestinians from East Jerusalem. It was emphasized in the Prime Minister's Office these reports are viewed with distrust and they are considered mere rumors.

It was reported from the defense minister's office in response to the question of whether new ideas were broached with the United States that the report neither is confirmed nor denied, and the response is: No comment.

Denies Raising New Ideas

TA2401121290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Studio discussion between anchormen Shalom Qital and Ze'ev Kohen—live]

[Text] [Qital] Is a new Rabin-Peres plan a joint political scheme intended both for internal and external purposes—namely, raising suggestions for the United States and Egypt to consider and which, if rejected by the Likud, would persuade Rabin to join Peres in a narrow-based government—in the works? Such tactics naturally will not be exposed in an Inner Cabinet session involving ministers from both the Likud and the Alignment. Thus in today's Inner Cabinet meeting, discussion revolved around Minister Rabin's talks in Washington. He said he never raised new ideas before his hosts in Washington, but merely asked questions and wanted certain things clarified. What did he want clarified? What did he say? What happened today at the Inner Cabinet session, Ze'ev Kohen?

[Kohen] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Inner Cabinet forum today he did not raise new ideas in the United States, but only asked questions to find out the U.S. position on including deportees in the Palestinian delegation. Rabin, despite these remarks, did not conceal the fact he has no objection to this, that he said as much to both the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the Alignment Faction meeting, and that even the prime minister knows it.

As to the question of whether Rabin and Peres are completely coordinated, according to an initial investigation—and let me again emphasize this is only an initial probe—the two are not fully coordinated. Some people contend Peres takes things one step further than Rabin. We, too, will examine this issue, but let us return to the Inner Cabinet session.

[Qital] Without forcing you to disclose your sources, which in such cases naturally are confidential, when you say some people are surprised Peres has gone so far, do you mean these are Alignment members, not only Likud members?

[Kohen] Yes, of course.

[Qital] After all, if the Likud states as much, it makes sense, but as to Rabin-Peres coordination...

[Kohen, interrupting] This statement also was voiced in Alignment circles.

But to go back to the Inner Cabinet session: Minister David Levi said he does not believe private questions should be asked in a meeting between a senior minister—meaning Rabin—with leaders of the U.S. Administration. With all due respect, this is not the right forum to raise personal questions, said Levi, noting a second political channel operates in parallel to the government's. It runs between Cairo and Washington, and that communication goes against the Cabinet's efforts. David Levi asked the prime minister what he planned to do about it and asked whether this is the proper way to conduct a policy. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir responded in no uncertain terms: Such a thing must not be allowed.

Other ministers attacked Shim'on Peres for the interview he granted AL-AHRAM, in which he expressed support for an international conference. Minister Moshe Nisim said it was reported the finance minister was planning to submit a proposal today related to the peace process. He pointed out this proposal conflicts with the Cabinet's policy and the peace initiative. He asked: Is this meeting on behalf of the Labor Party or as part of Peres' membership in the Cabinet? Was this meeting coordinated through the Foreign Ministry or the political section of the Treasury, a branch Shim'on Peres established upon assuming office?

At any rate, the political scene again is afire. Tension is expected to mount as the Likud Central Committee session scheduled for early February approaches.

Shamir Denies Issuing 'Ultimatum' to Likud

TA2301193090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir after his address at the Prisoners of Zion Convention in Tel Aviv, by Qami Baratz—live]

[Text] [Baratz] Good evening, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Baratz] You said yesterday if you fail to receive the Likud Central Committee's full support and confidence, you will resign from your position as party leader and prime minister. Today we heard the constraints ministers claim your remarks imply a threat and ultimatum. In fact, the constraints ministers accuse you of presenting an ultimatum. What is your response?

[Shamir] Well, I simply was answering a question. It is self-evident when a party's supreme institution fails to give the head of a party its confidence, that party head must draw the appropriate conclusions. There is no threat nor ultimatum in this.

[Baratz] It further was stated you are diverting the political issue to personal lines.

[Shamir] There are no political issues, because there are no differences of opinion inside the Likud. I therefore have no such intentions. In my address to the Central Committee, I will explain the party's political and other stands. I have no intention of evading political issues.

[Baratz] If I may, Mr Prime Minister, a question about the security zone in south Lebanon. Another senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer, the fifth, was killed there last Sunday. Do you intend to take any kind of action to alter the policy or, perhaps, the bodies operating inside the security zone?

[Shamir] I do not think there is room whatsoever for any changes. We must pursue the same policy and the same activity.

Shamir Reiterates Need for 'Big, Strong Land'

TA2401115590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jan 90 pp 1, 9

[Report by Herb Keinon and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday that Israel is speeding up efforts to rescue Jews caught up in the revolt of the Moslem majority in Azerbaijan.

Shamir, speaking at a press conference following a tour of absorption facilities in Jerusalem with Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz, said that Israel had recently sent numerous invitations to Jews from Baku so that their departure would not be held up for technical reasons. [passage omitted]

Referring to an appeal by 25 Palestinian activists to Western governments to prevent the settlement of Russian immigrants in the territories, Shamir said: "We know that the big wave of aliya worries them."

He said that the appeal should show Jews and Israelis the true intentions of the Palestinian leaders, including Faysal al-Husayni, who signed the memorandum.

"He who fights against aliya can't be for peace with Israel," the prime minister said.

During his tour of the capital's Neve Ya'aqov neighbourhood, Shamir reiterated that "we need a big and strong people in a big and strong land."

At the press conference, he stated: "This is our country. Everyone knows that in my view Judaea, Samaria and Gaza are part of Israel. As for the right of immigrants to settle there—it is up to them."

Shamir said that a number of immigrants have expressed interest in settling in the territories.

"If anyone wants to go to Ariel, he has the right to do so. If he wants to go to Tel Aviv, he has the right to do so, if he wants to go to Jerusalem he can do it. We are not making a special effort to send people to these places."

Jerusalem, though, is one locale where the government hopes many of the immigrants will settle. Peretz said that since housing in the capital is so much more expensive than in the rest of the country, the government should provide incentives for immigrants to live in the capital. [passage omitted]

Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav, speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday, hinted Israel may try to airlift Jews out of the Soviet Union by organizing "special" flights and asking Moscow for ad hoc permits to do so. [passage omitted]

Rabin Urges Withdrawal of Syrians, Palestinians

TA2301212890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin tonight visited the site in south Lebanon where Colonel Yitzhaq Rahimov was killed last Sunday in a clash with terrorists. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports Minister Rabin was briefed on the incident by the commander of the Northern Command and senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] commanders.

In an interview on Middle East Television, the defense minister called on all those desiring calm in the area to thwart terrorist activities. He also urged the various Lebanese factions to reach an arrangement helping the country regain its independence. He noted Israel will cooperate with any Lebanese element to secure the withdrawal from its soil of all foreign troops, including—first and foremost—the Syrian Army and the Palestinians.

Peres: Direct Palestinian Talks 'Very Close'

TA2301204290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said upon landing in Cairo: We are very close to direct negotiations with the Palestinians. All the parties in Israel agree to conducting the talks in Cairo, Peres added. We are very close to an agreement to soon launch the talks.

With Peres' arrival, official Cairo sources said Egypt hopes for the survival of the unity government for the sake of promoting the peace process in the Middle East.

Survey: 3 Top Leaders, Weizman Met Al-Husayni

TA2401114790 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Ronit Antler, Alex Fishman, and Mikhal Qedem]

[Excerpt] Ministers Moshe Arens, Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, and 'Ezer Weizman all have had meetings with Faysal al-Husayni during the past few months. This was revealed in a secret survey conducted by U.S. diplomats in Israel at the request of the State Department.

According to the report, each of the four ministers conducted a private meeting with Al-Husayni in a bid to assess the Israeli peace initiative's chances, and to get a close feel for moods among the territories' Palestinian residents.

U.S. diplomats in the past few weeks talked to most of the Cabinet ministers to find out which Palestinian figures they conferred with and in what framework. The list of Palestinian personalities with whom the ministers met was transmitted to the State Department, and Secretary James Baker will use it when the list of candidates for the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel is compiled. [passage omitted]

Israel, U.S. Share 'Blame' for Stalled Initiative

TA1601173990 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 15 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. To Share the Blame"]

[Text] James Baker is upset with the more than slow movement in the peace process. He is threatening to pull out unless the parties to the conflict take him seriously and show willingness to move ahead.

James Baker is right in his feelings, and he is not the only one. The Palestinians, the party most seriously concerned with seeing some kind of movement, are also concerned that the peace process is not going anywhere. Baker, like the Palestinians, knows where the problem lies. The Palestinians can do nothing about it. They have already done everything they can and have been asked to do. The United States knows this and that is why, unlike the old days, no one can blame the Palestinians for placing any obstacles in the way of peace.

If we rule out Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon—since none of them are really too involved in the current Mideast peace process—then who is left? Israel?

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, in her January 10 briefing, did not name any specific party as a cause for the delay. All she said was that Secretary Baker was prepared "to stay engaged as long as the parties are determined to make progress." She then went on to hint that the "parties" were not showing enough of the "kind of impulse that will produce change in the Middle East" for the United States to give the conflict its full attention.

If the cause of the delay had come from the Palestinian or Arab side, we could be assured that Tutwiler would have mentioned them by name and more than once. But since the delay, as everyone knows, is coming from Israel, Tutwiler, reflecting general U.S. policy toward the Middle East conflict, preferred to be ambiguous.

Unfortunately, this has been the case throughout the many efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The United States was never ready or willing to back up its peace efforts and initiatives if and when Israel blocked them. It was willing to pressure the Palestinians to make concessions, but never did the same with Israel. Maybe this is why part of the blame for the stalling of Baker's own peace initiative should be placed on the United States itself. If Baker and the Bush administration were willing to see progress made in the Palestinian Israeli conflict, everyone knows that it would not be difficult for them to do so. All it takes are few words, and the work gets done. There are many examples that prove this, most recently President Bush's refusal to meet Israel's Yitzhaq Shamir unless the latter came up with a peace initiative.

When the Palestinians accepted the three conditions placed on them by the U.S. government to start a dialogue with it, they did so knowing that the United States could be a major factor in bringing the parties to the conflict to agreement on a peace settlement. The Palestinians still believe that the United States holds many of the cards for a settlement. But the United States' uncommitted stand and refusal to use any pressure on Israel, in addition to its war against the PLO—such as in the PLO's battle for recognition of the state of Palestine—can never be an asset to the peace process. The United States can do the Middle East conflict a great favor by evaluating its policy and taking it more seriously and honestly.

Peace Plan Offered Based on 'Palestinian State'

TA1601111790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Abraham Rabinovich]

[Text] Shmu'el Toledano, adviser on Arab affairs to three prime ministers and a former senior Mosad official, summoned a press conference yesterday to offer his own solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Launching a public campaign to mobilize support for his ideas, the 66-year-old Toledano called on the government to end the political stalemate by declaring its willingness to accept a Palestinian state and vacate almost all the territories.

Toledano said his "mutual test" plan was aimed at avoiding the mutual distrust that has prevented the two sides from moving towards an agreement.

"The government will name a specific date, five years following the decision, when Israel will vacate, with minor border modifications, the territories that were occupied in the 1967 war. The government will announce that it will not object to the creation of a Palestinian state."

During the five years following that declaration, said Toledano, the PLO and Arab countries bordering Israel would have to take a number of steps if the Israeli proposal is to be put into effect. These would include the PLO ending the intifadah and acts of terror against Israel, renouncing the refugees' "right of return" to Israel, and recognizing the Jewish state, while Israel's neighbours would have to end the state of war and implement tourism and trade relations with Israel.

Compensation would be paid by Israel for abandoned Arab property and by Arab states for confiscated Jewish property.

For the first 10 years of its existence, said Toledano, the sovereignty of the Palestinian state would be limited.

Israel would maintain outposts along the Jordan River for the first five years to guard against foreign incursions, and the Israel Air Force would have the right to overfly the West Bank and Gaza. During the 10-year period, the Palestinians would not maintain an army.

"For the first time in their long struggle," said Toledano, "the Palestinians will have a solid commitment to a state. After 15 years they will have a state with no limitations."

Israel would have the right to send its army into the Palestinian state if a foreign power attempts to enter it.

Among the few territorial concessions the Palestinians would be asked to make, he said, would be the Jewish neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem. Israel would maintain sovereignty over all of Jerusalem under the plan, but there would be separate Arab and Jewish mayors in East and West Jerusalem.

The U.S., Japan and other countries would be asked to work out a plan to resolve the Palestinian refugee problem, which would not include settlement within Israeli territory.

According to an opinion poll by the Dahaf organization, 60 per cent of the Israeli public expressed support for Toledano's plan when it was the only one presented to them. Given the choice of several plans ranging from the Alon plan for territorial compromise to annexation, 35 per cent supported Toledano's proposal.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 16 January, in a similar report by Yizhar Be'er on page A3, adds that "the plan would be presented to the Knesset for ratification, and a special law would be passed which could only be canceled by a majority of 90 percent of the Knesset members." The results of the Dahaf poll, "based on the responses of 1,184 interviewees, show that 50 percent of the Palestinians and 60 percent of the Israelis asked accepted the plan, the highest acceptance rate of any plan raised previously by the left- or right-wing parties."]

Peres Responds to Criticism of CSSR, Egypt Visits

TA1701163590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says the time has come for Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to learn his manners. He said this in reaction to criticism from the Prime Minister's Office and the foreign minister's office upon learning Minister Peres soon will depart for Prague and Cairo.

In an address before the Economic-Commercial Club in Jerusalem, Shim'on Peres said when Arens was minister without portfolio, he met with the U.S. secretary of state and never even bothered to inform then Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres of his trip. That trip, the finance minister recalled, caused damage because it was meant to strangle the U.S. peace initiative.

Peres: Rabin To Support Narrow Government

TA1601054390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres says if the foreign ministers meeting fails and it becomes clear the political process has ended, there will be no point in keeping the unity government alive. Speaking to political correspondents in Jerusalem, he noted he believes he will be able to set up a narrow-based government with a majority of 67 Knesset members, without needing the votes of the Arabs and the communists. Peres is convinced Yitzhaq Rabin will not stand in the way of dissolving the incumbent government once he is convinced it is incapable of bringing peace. The above was reported by our correspondent Arye Golan.

Labor Mainstream Opposes Government Dissolution

TA2301183190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Members of the Labor Party mainstream oppose dissolving the unity government as long as the peace process continues. In a letter to the party secretary general, they said preoccupation with disbanding the government goes against their party resolutions, causes damage to the party, impairs economic stability and the peace process, and diverts attention from the vital issues of immigrant absorption and employment.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that this afternoon, members of the mainstream conducted a meeting in the Knesset with the defense minister. They asked Minister Rabin for additional details of his U.S. trip and of the political process. Among the participants in the meeting were Knesset Members Shlomo Hilel, Gedalya Gal, Mikha Goldman, Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino, and Ra'anan Kohen.

Refa'el Pinhasi Named Deputy Interior Minister

TA1601111290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] The government yesterday announced the appointment of Refa'el Pinhasi (SHAS) [Torah Observing Sepharadim] as deputy interior minister.

Pinhasi's appointment is seen as a move that not only strengthens the position of Interior Minister Arye Der'i in SHAS, but also frees Der'i for more active involvement in coalition politics. [passage omitted]

'Everything Necessary' Done for Azerbaijani Jews

TA1601121090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said Israel will do all it can to help the Jews in Azerbaijan. Shamir made this statement during a visit to Rishon Leziyyon. Our correspondent Amir Fink brings his remarks:

[Begin Shamir recording] Well, it is difficult to establish an order of priorities there, but our people, the consular delegation, are doing everything necessary and possible. On the whole, we send tens of thousands of requests, according to the number of people interested in emigrating. The difficulty still lies in transport and suitable flight arrangements, because the flight agreement between Aeroflot and El Al is not yet in force. We nevertheless recruit and utilize every possible flight route to bring the emigrants more swiftly from every location. As for priorities, it is very difficult to know. All Soviet Jews share a sense of urgency, regardless of where they live. [end recording]

Hungary's Nemeth Expected on 'Official' Visit

TA2401122090 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 p A3

[Report by Rahel Stein]

[Text] Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth will conduct an official visit to Israel on 20 February. This was reported by government sources. This will be the first visit to Israel by an Eastern bloc premier. Hungary and Israel renewed their diplomatic relations in September during Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' visit.

Efforts Under Way for Academic Group in PRC

TA1701114690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] An Israeli Academy of Sciences assessment team headed by Me'ir Tzadoq, director general of the academy, visited Beijing in December 1989 to coordinate with PRC authorities the opening of a permanent academic representation there. The representation would be responsible for exchanges of scientists, students, and scientific knowledge between the two countries.

According to Tzadoq, the delegation was warmly received. In the meantime, Israel is formally registering the representation so it would enjoy formal status.

It is hoped the representation could be inaugurated and manned with suitable personnel by March 1990. The Academy of Sciences has encountered difficulty in finding someone to head the representation and be permanently stationed in Beijing, and Tzadoq himself had to stay there for some time.

Contacts are now being made with a senior academic figure on a sabbatical overseas.

PRC News Agency To Open Office 'Soon'

TA1701152490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The PRC news agency XINHUA soon will open an office in Israel. This was reported by members of a Chinese press delegation that completed a week-long visit to Israel. They also announced they will invite an Israeli delegation to the PRC for a return visit.

Violent Riots, Injuries in Territories Noted

TA2401122390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 p A2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The security forces yesterday closed down two Bethlehem schools from which stones had been thrown. This was reported by Palestinian sources. According to the sources, 37 local residents were detained in an initiated operation in the Ramallah District village of Sinjil. Curfews remained in force in the villages of 'Anabta, Biddu, Zawiyah, and Hablah. In the latter, hundreds of students, some with masked faces, staged marches. [passage omitted]

According to Arab sources, 10 residents sustained gunfire injuries in clashes in the al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps, and in several Gaza Strip towns. In violent incidents yesterday between soldiers and students in several Gaza Strip schools, 20 students were injured by gas inhalation, according to the sources.

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman for the Southern Command reported eight students were injured by tear gas in the area of Gaza's Thalathun School, and two sustained gunshot wounds.

The gravest disturbances were staged in schools. Arab sources reported numerous students confronted the troops, hurling stones, iron bars, and other objects. In several Gaza Strip schools, the IDF resorted to tear gas and rubber bullets, and shots were fired in the air. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Arye Shifman, head of the Gaza Strip Civil Administration, yesterday met with Strip school principals and supervisors, who asked him to reopen the schools the Civil Administration had closed the previous week. Gen Shifman replied the administration's policy is to refrain from closing schools, unless they are used for disturbances.

In the wake of yesterday's incidents, the Civil Administration plans to close additional schools in the Gaza Strip.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 24 January, in a page A13 report by Barukh Me'iri, states: "An Arab youth from the territories, who had attempted to murder soldier Mordekhay Kahana," "was sentenced to 7 years in prison in the Jerusalem District Court."]

10 Wounded During Protest of Resident's Death

TA2301210890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Musa 'Isa Sa'id, 23, was shot and killed today by soldiers in Nabulus [as heard; passage omitted]. According to military sources, an investigation into the incident revealed the victim was one of the leaders of the casbah's Fatah-affiliated strike committees. A general strike was declared after the incident and numerous stonings occurred in Nabulus. Ten residents were injured in these incidents.

Ahmad Sa'adallah Musa, 28, an Arab resident of the Janin District village of 'Arraba, was stabbed to death. He was suspected of aiding the Israeli authorities. This is the fourth Arab to have been murdered in the past 3 days for this reason.

In last night's incident in the Samaria village of Turah al-Gharbiyyah, in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol was stoned, a 7-year-old boy was critically wounded by a bullet. He was transferred to an Israeli hospital.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2100 GMT on 23 January adds: "A Molotov cocktail was thrown tonight at a Border Police patrol in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of al-Tur. There were no casualties and no damage caused."]

Knesset Committee Notes Shift to Hard Drugs

TA2401123090 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 p 5

[Report by Moshe Perl and Yosi Werther]

[Text] There are 300,000 hard drug users in Israel, 20,000 of them addicts. Between 3 and 9 percent of school children also use drugs.

These statistics were reported yesterday to the joint committee set up by the Knesset's Finance Committee and the subcommittee on drugs. The ministers of health, labor and social affairs, and police affairs; as well as the directors general of these ministries, and staffers from the Treasury's Budget Department attended the forum's special session. Committee Chairman 'Ovadya 'Eli (Likud) reported the number of drug abusers grows every year in worrying proportions. He claimed $2.5 billion circulate in the Israeli drug market annually, but the government is not doing enough to allocate money to combat drug abuse and save the addicts.

Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur admitted the Health Ministry budget makes conducting an effective battle against the problem impossible.

"There is no treatment right now. The Ministry handles approximately 1,000 individuals. We cannot support any more," he said.

Police officers who participated in the session reported a trend has been noticed in the gradual shift to hard drugs. "Whereas in 1981 the ratio was 10 percent, today 60 percent of the addicts require the hard stuff," they reported. Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said the police give precedence to the issue and 800 policemen currently are involved in this area. Police Commissioner David Kraus maintained the situation is serious, "drug dens crop up regularly by the dozens," and "drugs are traded freely along the Lebanese border."

All the participants agreed the main problem is the lack of resources to deal properly with the problem. Likud Knesset Member Re'uven Rivlin said the only way to force the government to take action is to make approval of next year's budget in the Finance Committee conditional on allocation of funds to fight drugs. At the recommendation of Finance Committee Chairman Avraham Shohat, it was decided to set up a three-member committee to promote the issue in preparation for the budget discussions in the Knesset.

Police Commissioner Releases 1989 Crime Data

TA2301195890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Police Commissioner David Krauss and Deputy Commander Yehuda Wilk will question Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman over his alleged contacts with the PLO. [passage omitted] The police commissioner was speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem this afternoon, at which he presented the annual police report. With details on the report, here is Mark Weiss:

If intifadah and drug-related offenses are excluded, there was a small decrease in crimes committed in Israel last year. Although a violent offense is committed in Israel every hour, instances of armed robbery are still very low compared with other Western countries. A home is broken into every 18 minutes, and a car is stolen every 33 minutes.

There was an almost 50 percent increase in prosecutions against drug traffickers over the previous year. Commissioner Krauss said that despite a fall in police manpower, more special antidrug units were set up, and the police efforts to capture drug smugglers on the Lebanese border were increased.

Heroin seizures were up by one-third, although less cocaine and hashish were confiscated.

There was a large increase in instances of public disorder on both sides of the Green Line. More than 2,200 incidents of stone throwing and 176 petrol-bomb attacks were reported inside the Green Line last year.

Sixty percent of the 3,000 or so complaints against the police alleged excessive use of force. Less than 350 were found to be justified. Fifty officers were evicted from the force, and 15 resigned after investigations were opened against them. Thirty-two Border Police members were told they were unsuitable for service in the police force.

Police Officer Notes Increased Anti-Israel Acts

TA1701181790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Commander Albert Musafya, chief of police in the Northern District, said last year the number of criminal acts committed against a nationalistic background increased by more than 30 percent, particularly in the villages divided by the Green Line. He reported most of the perpetrators are youths aged between 15 and 22, some of whom are paid by residents of the territories to carry out attacks inside the Green Line. He noted, nevertheless, the intifadah has not spilled over into the Green Line, and he does not foresee this happening in the future.

Commander Musafya disclosed most of the young boys in the north who participated in nationalistic-motivated acts told their interrogators they did it out of their hatred for the Jews.

Poll Shows 45 Percent Want 'Strong Leadership'

TA2401120290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] Israelis who prefer democratic rule to strong leadership have become a minority since the outbreak of the intifada, according to a survey conducted by the Israel-Diaspora Institute.

According to the survey, published in the institute quarterly, Democracy, 45 per cent of the 1,200 Israelis questioned agreed to the following statement: "In Israel's current situation, a strong leadership is needed to bring order to the country independent of elections or a Knesset vote."

Forty-two per cent of the respondents opposed the statement and 13 per cent expressed no opinion, said institute head Eric Karmon.

Karmon said that when the same statement was put to Israelis in 1987, before the intifada, 59 per cent of the sample opposed it, 34 per cent approved, and 7 per cent expressed no opinion.

The shift in attitudes was "dramatic," said Karmon. "There is no doubt that, over the past two years, different elements have been at work to undermine the Israeli political system and its democratic foundations."

Karmon added that, in the current survey, only 44 per cent opposed the following statement: "A slight threat to national security is sufficient to justify a serious limitation of democracy." Fifty-six per cent opposed the statement in 1987. The 12 per cent who changed their minds apparently entered the "undecided" column this time, but did not go so far as to support the statement.

The survey, conducted by Tel Aviv University Professors Efi Ya'ar and Yohanan Peres, also showed that supporters of the political left and right have hardened their attitudes over the past two years. Twenty-eight per cent of the sample said they were inclined to be more hawkish since the onset of the intifada, while 21 per cent said they were more dovish.

According to Karmon, the growing polarization is part of the threat to democratic rule. "When you put the whole thing together, you see the danger to democracy," he said. "The question is whether the existing political system can stand up to the pressure."

The survey also found that educated and secular people were more tolerant and more supportive of democracy than uneducated or religious people. Two other factors—ethnic background and income—appeared to be less important in determining attitudes.

Al-Lawzi Comments on Soviet Jewish Emigration

JN2401092690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Opening the door wide for Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine represents a flagrant aggression on the Arab nation far exceeding the dimensions of all dangers posed to it throughout its history, Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi said in a statement Tuesday [23 January].

"Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine is bound to lend further support for Israel's expansionist aims in the Arab lands and encourage the Jewish state to perpetuate its current policies and its denial of the Palestinan people's right to their homeland," al-Lawzi said in a statement carried by the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA.

Al-Lawzi called for a unified Arab stand in the international arena in general and in the Soviet arena in particular to warn the world of the dangers inherent in Israel's settlement policies in the Arab region and the danger posed to the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. "This emigration constitutes an open defiance of international legitimacy and the rights of all countries in the region to live in peace and security," al-Lawzi added.

The Senate speaker called on the Soviet government to respect its friendly ties with the Arab World and to safeguard common interests. "If the liberalisation movement and the current political changes in Eastern Europe are behind this emigration fever, then at least the Jews should be allowed to emigrate to destinations other than the occupied Arab territories until a final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict has been found and the Palestinian people's rights and lands are restored," al-Lawzi said.

He expressed hope that the emigration movement "will not be used as a new weapon by the Israelis, who could be paving the way for new aggression against the Arab Nation."

Al-Lawzi said that the Senate had already sent a memorandum to the Soviet Praesidium urging it to understand the Arab and Palestinian position with regard to peace and to help put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The memorandum pointed out the dangers inherent in continued Soviet Jewish emigration, al-Lawzi said.

Earlier Tuesday, al-Lawzi received in his office Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Aleksandr Zinchuk who conveyed to the speaker a message in reply to one sent to the Soviet Praesidium.

Al-Lawzi and Zinchuk discussed Moscow's contribution to efforts to reach a final settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the exchange of land for peace.

Al-Qasim on U.S. Aid, Israeli Emigration

JN2401081090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 90 p 1

[By staff reporter Mariam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan al-Qasim has stressed the urgency to stem the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and urged the United States to reexamine its tax exemption laws that could indirectly encourage Israel to pursue and facilitate its illegal settlement policies.

"The tax exempt status of Jewish organisations operating in the U.S. enables them to provide Israel with the private funding needed to promote its absorption projects," al-Qasim told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview Tuesday [23 January].

The foreign minister said that it was worth reviewing the tax laws exempting, among others, Jewish organisations by the U.S. since the direct funneling of funds from these organisations in the U.S. to Israel directly contravenes the declared American policy concerning the occupied territories. "A review of this status may enhance U.S. efforts in the region to bring about a political settlement based on U.S. Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of all (states in the region) to exist within secure and recognised boundaries," al-Qasim said.

Referring to plans announced by the Israeli government to settle thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, al-Qasim said: "There are many countries that can discourage the exodus, which can only lead to a situation in which stability of this region will be endangered further."

Al-Qasim said Jordanian officials had discussed the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel with the Soviet, U.S. and other ambassadors in Amman. He said that Jordanian officials had pointed out to the Soviet envoy and others that the effects of such a large-scale immigration would effect the stability of the whole region.

Al-Qasim expressed hope that countries which are concerned about ensuring stability in the region would pay more attention to the impasse in peace efforts. He blamed the "adamant, unyielding and obstructive Israeli position that the prime minister had reaffirmed one week ago" for the stalled peace process.

"Those who are concerned over stability in the region must surely realise that when Israel intends to absorb such a large number of people into the occupied territories this could only disturb the peace process," al-Qasim said.

He pointed out that there had been a marked change in certain attitudes in Israel and the United States as a result of the strategy adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) vis-a-vis the Arab Israeli conflict. "The most important components underlying the change of attitudes among a certain sector of Israelis and Americans is the intifada and the positive contribution of the PLO in trying to reach a political settlement based on the implementation of Security Council resolutions," he said.

"All have seen that the Israelis are the party that has been delinquent in their response to calls for implementing Resolutions 242 and 338," he said.

Al-Qasim said that one of the most important issues to be discussed at future meetings of Arab heads of state was how best to tackle the issue of massive Jewish immigration to Israel and the subsequent settlement of the new arrivals in the West Bank and Gaza.

Al-Qasim referred to a warning raised by His Majesty King Husayn that recent statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel "needed" to retain the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to settle thousands of Jewish immigrants expected to arrive in the next three years.

"There will be an occasion in which we can air our ideas and thoughts on the immigration and settlement issues and agree on a common strategy with other Arab states on how to deal with these issues because this will be inevitably at the expense of the Palestinians and regional peace," al-Qasim said.

If immigration and settlement of the West Bank and Gaza continue then the prospects of peace in the region will be reduced to almost nil, al-Qasim added.

"I hope there will be a response soon to His Majesty's concern on this particular point; it is a basic security concern of the whole Arab World," he said.

Al-Qasim said that the PLO leadership had made bold and courageous steps towards bringing about a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and that it received the backing and support of the Jordanian and Arab leaders at the Arab summit held in Casablanca last year.

Al-Qasim said that Jordan would emphasise the problem of the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and their planned settlement in the West Bank and Gaza at the next Arab foreign ministers' meeting, scheduled to take place in Tunis at the beginning of February.

"In 1990, it has been made quite clear to the world that the Arab side has done everything to accommodate a political settlement based on U.N. Security Council resolutions and that it is very evident that the Israelis are the major obstacle to the peace that this region and its people need," al-Qasim said.

Travel Ban Lifted; No Passport Clearance Needed

JN2301185290 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] To confirm the government's commitment to maintaining the citizens' right to freedom of travel and safeguarding their freedom to obtain official documents, the deputy prime minister and interior minister have issued instructions to the Public Security organs to consider all administrative orders banning Jordanian citizens from traveling abroad revoked. He has also instructed them not to prevent any citizen from traveling abroad unless a prevention order has been issued against the person by a competent authority in accordance with the law.

The deputy prime minister and interior minister also issued instructions to the Civil Status and Passports Department to implement his order to renew or issue passports for Jordanians residing in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan without requesting clearances from the competent security services.

Senate President Receives Soviet Envoy Zinchuk

JN2301155890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Amman, 23 Jan (PETRA-JNA)—Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has received Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Aleksandr Zinchuk, who conveyed to al-Lawzi a reply from the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The message comes in answer to the memorandum Ahmad al-Lawzi sent in the name of the Senate on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Palestinian people's intifadah against the Israeli occupation. The memorandum also deals with the immigration of Soviet Jews into Israel and its grave consequences, that is promoting Israel's expansionist designs and its settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—a policy that poses dangers to Jordan.

During the meeting, the two talked about the importance of the Soviet role in a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on an exchange of land for peace, on the inadmissibility of seizing other nations' lands by force, and on the need to rid the Israelis from the occupied Arab territories.

House Member Madanat on Civil Liberties, IMF

JN2201123990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jan 90 p 12

[Interview with 'Isa Madanat, member of the House of Representatives, by Tal'at Shana'ah; date and place not given]

[Text] [Shana'ah] Why did you abstain from voting during the vote of confidence session?

[Madanat] The government statement of policy contained several positive points. It also tackled important issues that still concern our people.

In my reply to the statement, I tried to address these issues objectively and with a sense of responsibility, unaffected by any complexes or personal sensibilities.

I believe our main concern today is to end the anomalous situation that has existed in the latter part of this century, since 1957 to be exact. This is when the Constitution was suspended and replaced by martial law, thereby diminishing the role of the civil courts and permitting the government to conduct public affairs without control or accountability. This led to policies that did not take national priorities and the country's capabilities into consideration. Public liberties and the freedom of the press were forfeited, political parties were disbanded, and parliamentary life was disrupted for the past 23 years. This led to widespread corruption. The country was also sunk in huge debt and unemployment rose to 15 per cent of the Jordanian work force. Some say the percentage is even higher. There were also violations in the use of public funds and Central Bank reserves. The local currency collapsed, prices spiraled, and social problems arose. I believe the absence of democratic liberties and parliamentary life has led to the the political, economic, and social crisis we have experienced.

Thus, the key to the solution of all these problems is the restitution of democratic liberties, the reapplication of the Constitution, and the cancellation of martial law and all other laws restricting public liberties.

As I said, the government statement of policy contains several important points, such as the declaration of the political desire to cancel martial law within 4-6 months, return impounded passports, ensure freedom of travel and employment, release political detainees, review the cases of political prisoners prior to granting them general amnesty, and reinstate the elected managements of the local newspapers, the writers union, and so forth.

The prime minister also promised to take several measures, such as: canceling the anti-communism law, reviewing all laws restricting public liberties, and removing the definitive judgement of administrative decisions contained in certain existing laws—for example, the political parties law, the printing and publication law, the associations law, and so forth.

In view of these government commitments, which have been followed by practical measures, we could not turn a blind eye to the positive points in the government statement.

But these promises, which we hope will be fulfilled soon, cannot solve all the country's problems. There is still the economic crisis. The government has committed itself to a rectification program embodied in the agreement with the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. We differ with the government on this point. I already explained my views in my speech during the debate on Prime Minister Badran's policy statement.

I believe that sticking to the agreement with the IMF will not solve the problem. I shall again speak on this subject during the debate on the finance minister's budget speech. I raised several points on this subject previously, during the debate on the government's policy statement, and concluded that if it is not possible to cancel this agreement, we should at least try to obtain better terms.

We are not the only indebted country in the world. However, our debts—in terms of population—are the highest in the world, except for Israel. Therefore, the issue is an international one. In some Third World countries, in reaction to similar agreements, the situation erupted—in Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, and Algeria, for example, and as happened here in April.

Some countries who rejected this "prescription" were granted easier terms than ours, and 40 percent of their debts were canceled. Other countries refused to pay the installments.

Do not forget that consecutive Nonaligned conferences, the latest of which was in Belgrade in the SFRY, dealt with this issue—and Jordan participated in this conference, which did not encourage agreeing on the IMF prescription.

I have called for establishing a new and fair economic system to address the debt issue on the basis that it is an international issue. I called for canceling the interest on these debts and for creating an appropriate international atmosphere to help Third World countries overcome this problem. This is in addition to the fact that the atmosphere of international detente is helping to achieve disarmament and link this with development. This is a principle agreed to by both socialist and capitalist countries such as the USSR and France. What would be saved in arms spending can be used to help the developed countries overcome their economic crises. If we cannot cancel the agreement with the IMF, we can obtain easier and better terms than those imposed on us.

For all these reasons, we have found positive aspects to the government's response to our conditions. However, points of difference remain. Therefore, we preferred to abstain from voting to give the government an opportunity to implement its commitments and continue to struggle in the future to achieve other reforms.

On relations with the United States, I believe that the distinguished relationship with the United States is unjustified. The United States is a strategic ally of Israel. And this ally will not modernize Arab forces to attack our enemy, Israel, particularly if among the United States' conditions for supplying the Arab countries, including Jordan, with weapons is not to use these weapons against Israel.

[Shana'ah] Some people speak about splits within the Jordanian Communist Party with which you are affiliated. How far have they gone?

[Madanat] There are no splits within the Jordanian Communist Party. In the past there were splits of this kind, but the communists discovered they needed each other. They now work within the framework of one party to reinforce their unity in all ideological, political, and organizational aspects.

Regarding what we hear on the establishment of parties such as the Jordanian progressive party and others as well as the activists who were in the Jordanian Communist Party, I know nothing about them and am not against the establishment of any party.

The Palestinian communist organization was part of the Jordanian Communist Party. However, since February 1982 its organization became independent, and now it is a member in the PLO Executive Committee and at the same time a participant in the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah. As for the disengagement decision, it did not affect the Jordanian Communist Party. We supported this decision, which created a reality that rendered the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. There can be no effective and successful move or international dialogue on the Palestine question without the participation of the PLO in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[Shana'ah] During a seminar which was held recently in Kuwait, Arab thinker Lutfi al-Khuli characterized the Arab Communist Party as backward. He also said that 99.9 percent of the Arab nation is affiliated with faith—meaning Islam. What is your opinion?

[Madanat] I have not taken notice of al-Khuli's speech. I cannot deny that communist parties, including our Jordanian party, have committed some mistakes and slips during their Arab presence. However, no one can deny what our party and other communist parties in the Arab countries have given—their strife and effective contribution to the national and pan-Arab struggle for independence. And after that they have given their struggle for social progress and furtherance of the political and economic independence through their participation in the rule of some Arab countries (at times) and currently in Syria.

As for the one-sided view of the Arab communist parties, it might be biased and not objective. Let bygones be bygones. Let us tackle our present and future issues through the unity of all good forces in order to achieve the joint objectives embodied in national liberation. In view of the current circumstances, I believe all the ranks of the nationalists, democrats, progressives, and good-willed people should be united to face the pressing problems which are affecting our people and the Arab peoples. These problems are tackling the internal national political, economic, and social problems on the one hand, and confronting the arrogant aggression and strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance against the Palestinian people and Arab countries on the other.

[Shana'ah] Why did Dr Ya'qub Zayadin fail in the parliamentary elections?

[Madanat] There are a number of factors which played a role in Dr Zayadin's failure. First, we were pursued during the 5 months which preceded the elections. So, we could not carry out a sufficient election campaign. Second, Paragraph E of Article 18 bans those affiliated with illegal parties to nominate themselves. Consequently, the public was confused as to whether those banned would be allowed to nominate themselves. Third, there has not been unity and coordination among the various national forces, especially the dispersion of votes at the third district, Amman. Finally, there were some objective factors which led the security forces to undermine the chances of some candidates, including Dr Zayadin.

[Shana'ah] During a press tour, I have noticed that some people are still fearful and have shown reservations over what happened. That is why they refused to talk about the democratic experience. Do you think their fears are justified?

[Madanat] We will make the utmost effort, with the help of all loyal forces, to advance democracy, make the experience triumph, and carry it to the point of no return. This will make it impossible for anyone to go back on it.

Israeli Warplanes Conduct Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC2401091690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes have carried out mock raids over the city of Sidon, east Sidon, and the Palestinian camps. The raids started at 0915 and were carried out at intervals. They lasted about 30 minutes.

Planes Reach Beirut

NC2401134390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon, the Palestinian camps, and Iqlim al-Tuffah several times this morning. The warplanes again flew over Sidon and the camps at about 1420 today, reaching as far as Beirut and the mountain. The Israeli planes drew antiaircraft fire.

Shiite Clash in Iqlim Al-Tuffah Leaves 1 Dead

NC2401124190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Citing security sources in the south, REUTER reported a short while ago that clashes broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning. The clashes, which lasted for 1 hour, left 1 person dead and 8 people wounded according to preliminary reports.

Al-Hirawi, Al-Asad Agree on Disarming Militias

NC2301164990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] REUTER has cited a prominent Lebanese political source as saying that Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi agreed to a plan for peacefully disarming all West Beirut militias and for extending the state's authority over both parts of the capital. The source pointed out that the plan, which will be implemented soon, stipulates that the Lebanese Army will disarm the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah. The plan, the source added, was approved by Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi during their 2d day of talks.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Damascus

NC2401000890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, accompanied by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, returned to Beirut this afternoon.

According to Lebanese sources in Damascus, President al-Hirawi will tour the member states of the Arab tripartite committee soon. The source added that the tour is expected between 10 and 25 February, and that after the tour, the regime will outline a plan to end General Michel 'Awn's (?rebellion).

Lahhud To Visit Damascus

NC2401082190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud will visit Damascus at the head of a military delegation next week to discuss issues pertaining to the implementation of the security plan for West Beirut.

Quoting a senior Lebanese political source, REUTER reports that Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad have agreed on a plan providing for disarming all militias.

'Awn Addresses Students at B'abda 22 Jan

NC2201180390 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Again today, people flocked to B'abda Palace, where delegations and sit-in organizers gathered despite the cold weather and heavy rain. The weather enhanced their resolve, will to sacrifice, and commitment to their land and dignified life.

Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn received student delegations at approximately 1000 today. He urged the students to continue to stand fast, and he criticized Mr Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus. He asked: How can al-Hirawi forget the Syrian occupier's bombardment and blockade of Zahlah and the eviction of its inhabitants? [passage omitted]

Condemns Al-Hirawi's Syria Visit

NC2301070990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has launched a severe attack on President Ilyas al-Hirawi in which he used words of abuse. 'Awn told the delegations that are daily summoned to B'abda that it would have been better for President al-Hirawi to have died than to have engaged in such a despicable enterprise, as he put it. 'Awn said that he was very saddened by what he described as the so-called president's visit to Damascus.

Speaking to delegations summoned to B'abda last night, 'Awn threatened to kill officials who are imposing a financial blockade on him. He said: Anyone who calls himself a president, a prime minister, a finance minister, a governor of the Bank of Lebanon, or a deputy governor of the same bank is going to pay dearly for the crime and for the financial blockade.

'Awn added: We have rights in the Central Bank. They are acting like a gang of criminals and they must not. Those who steal the people's livelihood have no right to live.

FRC Issues Communique on Clash With Israelis

NC2201211690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A communique issued by Fatah-The Revolutionary Council has said that the confrontation with the forces of the Zionist enemy and agent Lahd lasted 14 hours, from yesterday till dawn today. The communique said that the martyr Hisham Muhammad unit was advancing toward targets inside occupied Palestine when it clashed with elements from the Lahd forces and eliminated them. The enemy requested armored reinforcements and helicopters. A clash ensued in Yarun during which Zionist Colonel Yitzhaq Rahimov and a number of enemy soldiers were killed. The heroes of the unit were martyred.

The communique added that the martyrs have accurately shown where the Palestinian rifle should be pointed.

Leaders Discuss Revival of Institutions, Authority

NC1501213790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] After his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this evening, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said that the purpose of the meeting was to expedite the revival of the state's institutions and the preparation of the legitimate forces to carry out their duty, both in seeing to the establishment of the state's authority over the land to enable the Lebanese to unite their ranks and to forcefully confront the dangers threatening their country, or with regard to the situation in the south.

Al-Husayni added that the dicussions during the meeting dealt with all aspects of the current issues that preoccupy the citizens and the Arab community that supports the Lebanese national accord process and the al-Ta'if document, in addition to the international community that has often expressed its support for this process.

Al-Husayni said that during his meeting with Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, they dealt with the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee. He noted that his meeting with President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss also dealt with the steps that the tripartite committee must take. He emphasized that the goal is to restore the state's authority over the Lebanese territories and to eliminate everything that threatens the solution process and jeopardizes Lebanon's unity and coexistence. He added that the legitimate authority is determined to employ all the powers which the Constitution, the laws, and regulations have vested in it.

Sources Cited on Iraqi Allocations to 'Awn

NC2401090890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources have disclosed that Michel 'Awn received monthly allocations from Iraq several years ago. These sources pointed out that these allocations were worth between $200,000 and $300,000 and that 'Awn used to give about half of the total to senior officers who were supposed to stand by him in difficult times.

Pro-'Awn Leaflets Distributed in North

NC1901154890 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] We have just received a report that the Lebanese Movement-the Promise [al-harakah al-lubnaniyah-al-wa'd] has distributed leaflets in the streets of towns and cities in the north. In part, the leaflets say: Because the north is the natural destination, we will return to the land of the fathers, to the cedar mountains, the Qannubin Valley, and the Tripoli plains.

The storm of liberation will blow from the capital of the north, where proud souls refuse to be cowed. O, people of the north, you are the roots and the origins. For you and for all of us is 20 January 1990 [day of solidarity with the north].

Fatah Official Urges Accord on Palestinians

NC1801164390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] AFP today cited Zayd Wahbah, a Fatah Movement political official, as calling for concluding an agreement with the Lebanese state to regulate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. He noted that such an agreement should be broader than al-Ta'if accord because, in his words, the latter ignored the presence of half a million Palestinians in Lebanon.

Citing Wahbah, the agency said serious preparations are under way for a Syrian-Palestinian meeting soon to end the dispute between Damascus and the PLO.

Status of Press Compliance to 'Awn Decree Noted

NC2301073490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] 'Awn yesterday added a new measure to his repressive campaign against the press when he prevented the distribution of AL-NAHAR and L'ORIENT LE JOUR in the morning. However, L'ORIENT LE JOUR was distributed in the eastern area in the afternoon.

AL-NAHAR appeared yesterday after not having been published for 5 days. The paper did not abide by 'Awn's decree on the titles issue.

The Phalangist Party's Voice of Lebanon and the Lebanese Forces' Radio Free Lebanon and Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation Television continued for the 7th day to refrain from broadcasting news bulletins in protest against 'Awn's measure and on the pretext of studying the decision. The weekly magazine AL-MASIRAH, which is published by the Lebanese Forces, has announced its decision to suspend publication.

Further Reportage on Al-Asad, Al-Hirawi Talks

Comment During News Conference

JN2301132690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi concluded their talks in Damascus today at the end of a meeting attended for the Lebanese side by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and for the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Peoples' Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The talks, conducted during the Lebanese president's 2-day visit to Damascus, dealt with the Lebanese situation as implementation of the national accord agreement endorsed by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies begins, and as the organs and institutions of the Lebanese State resume their work and activities to carry out their duties and spread the authority of the legitimate Lebanese Government over all Lebanese territories.

The talks also dealt with ways to implement the national accord agreement, as well as relations between the two fraternal countries. Views were identical on the topics discussed. The two sides agreed to take practical steps and make contacts on all levels in the future. During these talks, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed Syria's support for the legitimate Lebanese Government and the unity of Lebanon—territory, people, and institutions—and its readiness to extend any assistance requested by the legitimate Lebanese Government to spread its authority over Lebanese territories and protect Lebanon's unity. At the end of talks betweeen the president and President al-Hirawi, the two replied to questions posed by Lebanese and Syrian reporters and news agency correspondents.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Again Lebanon carries its hopes and pains to Al-Asad's Syria. What can Syria do to help the legitimate Lebanese Government in light of the outcome of your talks with his excellency the Lebanese president?

[Al-Asad] As you know, we spent 3 days of continuous work, and we conducted more than one session to discuss the situation in Lebanon. In fact, we can sum up the Syrian role by saying Syria will extend every possible support requested by brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi. We always have been with Lebanon. Those who want to harm Lebanon and keep the Lebanese in pain and a distressing atmosphere are trying to distort Syria's intentions toward Lebanon and to distort our political, economic, and military efforts and sacrifices. As I emphasized during my meetings with brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi, I reiterated if the Syrians had not believed the Lebanese are their brothers, they would not have been able to make all these sacrifices all these years to help the Lebanese. This is the feeling of the Syrian citizen, and this is my own feeling as a Syrian citizen and Syrian official. Proceeding from this principle, and in light of the achievements made during the past months, represented in the approval of the national accord document on electing the legitimate Lebanese constitutional institutions, we can say we have decided to respond to the demands of the legitimate Lebanese Government. We have no reservation on any demand, as I said during the medal awarding ceremony.

You may wonder if we will extend assistance in every sphere. Yes, we will extend assistance in every sphere. I say very clearly if the legitimate Lebanese Government requests the use of Syrian military power to extend its authority, we will comply. If it decides the Lebanese Army should undertake this mission and be supported by Syrian forces in its work or in the mission entrusted to it by the legitimate Lebanese Government, we also will comply.

[Reporter] Is it possible to carry out a bilateral Lebanese-Syrian action in isolation from international positions?

[Al-Asad] I believe Lebanese affairs primarily are a Lebanese concern. Lebanese-Syrian affairs also are primarily a Lebanese-Syrian concern. Arab affairs primarily are an Arab concern. We nevertheless do not belittle other countries because we in Syria, as well as our brothers in Lebanon, have friends in this world. There are countries wanting to help Lebanon, wanting it to emerge from its present situation. They want to extend assistance to Lebanon in whatever form they deem suitable. We in Syria—and I think brother President al-Hirawi and his brothers in Lebanon—respect this and respect the countries that harbor good intentions toward Lebanon or want to help it regardless of the form of assistance. The final decision, however, is that of the legitimate Lebanese Government.

[Reporter] Mr President, as to the Arab committee, how do you assess its accomplishments regarding Lebanese affairs now and in the forthcoming phase?

[Al-Asad] The Tripartite Arab Committee actually has done an important job. The Arab committee naturally is undertaking this job on behalf of the Arab countries, including Syria. As the committee members said and as you all know, Syria worked in harmony with the tripartite committee's efforts. We all are working for the sake of rescuing this dear, sisterly country. Their work was good and important, and the results reached were important. The Lebanese do not often decide important national Lebanese affairs through their representatives. What they recently did very well could have been one of the most important of these times, if not the only time, and this is significant. The Tripartite Arab Committee continues to exert efforts, and it deserves all our thanks. As you know, Syria was enthusiastic about the formation of a six-man committee on the level of the summit since the Casablanca summit. [sentence as heard] The other Arab brothers also were for forming the committee. The committee otherwise would not have been formed.

[Reporter] We thank you, Mr President, for your patience and would like to ask about the al-Ta'if agreement and the part related to Syria.

[Al-Asad] Syria is with the al-Ta'if agreement, and no one should doubt Syria's commitment to its part in implementing the accord. Had Syria not been committed to what was decided in the al-Ta'if agreement, the agreement would not have existed. We literally are committed to implementing what pertains to us in the al-Ta'if agreement. I would like to say more. We wish the Lebanese security forces themselves would act and were able to perform their tasks today, not tomorrow, so we could enable them as soon as possible—that is, as soon as capabilities are made available to them and as soon as they become capable—to carry out this mission. We are eager to work, must work, and will work through agreement with our brothers in Lebanon, headed by brother President al-Hirawi, so the Lebanese forces, the forces of the legitimate Lebanese Government, can assume their duties on Lebanese territory as soon as possible, everywhere.

Be assured this is what we desire, because it is in the interest of Syria and Lebanon. Syria has a great deal of tasks and duties important to Syria and Lebanon. We prefer the Syrian forces not deal directly with the daily affairs of the Lebanese citizen nor with those of the Syrian citizen, because armies have more general and comprehensive tasks.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President al-Hirawi, how do you assess the results of your talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, their effect on bilateral relations, and on the spread of legitimacy over all of Lebanon's land?

[Al-Hirawi] To begin with, I thank Al-Asad's Syria for our reception—I will not say for my reception, because we came on this visit as a single Lebanese unit, which we consolidated through the al-Ta'if agreement and through the presidential elections. We came to Al-Asad's Syria united, not divided. This can be seen, whether through the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies or the authority represented in Dr Salim al-Huss through the Council of Ministers. We came to discuss our affairs and concerns with sister Syria on all levels. His Excellency brother President Hafiz al-Asad honored us by what he said about the al-Ta'if greement, though we did not come to Syria to ascertain if it is with or against the al-Ta'if agreement. On the contrary, we came to discuss the details contained in the al-Ta'if agreement to begin implementing them. Our visit and talks, which lasted more than 12 hours, have produced the satisfactory results we had anticipated, for the mutual trust between the current leadership in Lebanon and the existing leadership in Syria—may God perpetuate it—is manifested by our consolidation, with full confidence, of this trust. In addition to being one people who share the same ethnic origin, the two sisterly countries are adjacent geographically, and the relations in all fields—security, economic, or others—should be completely consolidated. These relations moreover should be consolidated not only for the time being, but through agreements and treaties we can leave as a legacy for those who will succeed us in government, so we will not leave any issue unsettled and can prevent greed from enticing any of the two parties. Delegations representing all ministries therefore will visit Syria soon to consolidate these relations. There also will be reciprocal visits between Syria and Lebanon at all levels, especially the ministerial and technical, for us to consolidate the bases for which we came.

I would like to add: I am leaving Syria this day full of hope regarding what we have agreed upon, whether touching on a security plan for the capital to make it an oasis of peace for everyone who wishes to visit it—ambassadors, non-ambassadors, or the citizens who are not enjoying the range of freedom we wish for them, both members of the press or ordinary citizens, or anything else. In effect, this not only would provide Beirut, but also the rest of Lebanon's areas with the security and stability they need. This is what sister Syria wants for Lebanon, which we represent. Assessing this visit, I say it is very successful. For the first time, we talked frankly about all our affairs and concerns. The response was comprehensive, even more than we had expected. I therefore reiterate my thanks and assure the Lebanese citizens the progress of the al-Ta'if agreement and the peace march are on the correct and safe path, which we surely will follow.

[Reporter] What are the dangers of the al-Ta'if agreement failing, and do your believe this agreement is the last chance to improve the Lebanese situation?

[Al-Hirawi] First, I will not say what is happening in the eastern area hampers implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. We will start implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement immediately after our return to Beirut. Regarding the current events in the eastern area, I hope this frantic storm soon will end in the interest of the Lebanese who live in the eastern area, because what is taking place there is a grave mistake. Lebanon will be based on unity and will entrench spiritual relations among its families. We long for implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. Yes, it is the road to peace, and what was formulated in al-Ta'if represents an agreement among all Lebanese factions constituting its families. From now on, we never will admit sectarianism. We will stress citizenship. Everyone who does his duty for the homeland will be appreciated and occupy his proper position according to his qualifications. When stability prevails, the Chamber of Deputies will formulate Lebanon's constitution, because we live in a democratic, free state. These are the Lebanese aspirations for the future.

[Reporter] Mr President, will the legitimate Lebanese Government use all available means, including military, to deal with the current rebellion in the eastern area?

[Al-Hirawi] I hope patience and wisdom will prevail. In the final analysis, we have to unify Lebanon, prevent any partition, and restore the usurped south. The legitimate Lebanese Government therefore has the right to use whatever it likes.

[Reporter] Mr President, to what extent will the current visit contribute to ending the current rebellion in the eastern area?

[Al-Hirawi] I believe the measures to be taken on all levels will be a lesson for the eastern area to end its current situation.

[Reporter] Mr President, if matters do not find a solution and the rebellion pushes the country toward partition, will you seek fraternal Syria's help to save Lebanon?

[Al-Hirawi] We will do anything to prevent partition and fragmentation. In the past I said I did not assume this post to witness the partitioning of Lebanon. I came for two reasons: First, to restore cohesion among the Lebanese. Second, to spread the state's sovereignty over every inch of the Lebanese territories, as his excellency my brother said. He also said he would help us and expressd hope there will be Lebanese security authorities, including the Army and security forces, which soon will assume this responsibility.

[Al-Asad] In fact, President Ilyas al-Hirawi and I have agreed there is no room for partitioning, and no one can partition Lebanon. Lebanon should be unified, sovereign, and independent in the full sense of the word, as brother Al-Hirawi said. On this occasion, I said Syria has an interest and even a basic and ideological interest in Lebanon's unity, independence, strength, prosperity, and progress. It also has an interest in Lebanon's independence. At the top of these interests, if we can call it interests, is independence, which will secure safety and stability for the Lebanese citizens. This independence responds to the deep, brotherly feelings of the Syrians in general. Partitioning is forbidden, and we are moving toward unity and a real independence, which spreads love, cohesion, and unity among the Lebanese and also love and cohesion between the Lebanese and their Syrian brothers, not the opposite.

[Reporter] Mr President, some regional circles are linking a solution to Lebanon's crisis with a solution to the region's crisis. How true are these allegations?

[Al-Asad] Such ideas may exist; indeed, they do exist in some parts of this world. But as I said, the decision is not made by these circles. I repeat the decision is made in Lebanon first, in Syria and Lebanon second, and in the Arab homeland third.

[Reporter] Mr President, on the eve of the expected visit to Syria by President Husni Mubarak, can it be said the situation in the Arab world will witness a new development reflecting positively on Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] The meeting between Syria and Egypt is supposed to have, indeed must have, positive effects on the prominent Arab issues, especially the Lebanese question. As you hear, brothers in Egypt support and stand by the legitimate authority in Lebanon; they declare support for Lebanon's unity and express stances similar to ours. This is a good and pan-Arab stance on Lebanon.

[Reporter] Mr President, the existing war in the eastern area over the al-Ta'if agreement is paralleled by other wars over the same agreement. Will all these wars be handled similarly?

[Al-Asad] I do not understand the question.

[Reporter] For example, the war in Iqlim al-Tuffah [between Amal and Hizballah militias].

[Al-Asad] Perhaps—and you live there near the various warring parties—the different motives may, regrettably, serve the same goal at the end of the day; not their goal but the goal of others. But I believe the motives are different. In all cases, however, they are not in the interest of Lebanon. We hope all parties will leave these wars to what can benefit Lebanon. This would be better.

[Reporters] Thanks, Messrs Presidents.

[Al-Asad and Al-Hirawi] You're welcome.

Al-Asad on Disarming Militias

JN2301203890 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi concluded their talks today in Damascus. The two presidents answered questions upon concluding their talks posed by Lebanese and Syrian reporters and news agency correspondents.

Asked whether Syria will help Lebanon disarm the warring Lebanese militias, President al-Asad said: Syria, as I have said, is with the al-Ta'if accord. If you will refer to the al-Ta'if accord, you will find it answers this question. We are on our way to implementing the al-Ta'if accord. The al-Ta'if accord, as you know, is a somewhat long road, and I do not think we now have reached the end of this problem. The problem is part of the official military institution is outside the state authority. This would be the top priority of any country. It is difficult to talk about a militia, and say this is the problem, when the state's basic instrument is insurgent and has broken away from the state authority.

This does not mean, however, the state will have nothing to do with the militias, which could become parties. A large part of them basically are parties. As President al-Hirawi said, there always have been parties in Lebanon exercising their freedom and democracy, just like journalists at a previous stage. The state has things to do. There are tasks that can be performed in the near future, as mentioned in our talks. The basic problem, however, is part of the military institution is outside its authority—and this is at the top of the government's priorities.

Asked if Syria will prevent the entry of illegal armed people into Lebanon via its borders—the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, for instance—and if an agreement was reached on this matter, the president said: This is part of a whole. When the problem is addressed, and a plan is drawn up to deal with the problem as a whole, Syria will, as I have said, extend every possible assistance. I would like to say honestly this problem is political rather than military. Some are talking about this innocently, but many of those who blare out ideas about this problem and magnify it may not have good intentions. You, or some of you, know the size of this force. It is very small. According to our information here in Syria, the role this force is playing in Lebanese problems and domestic affairs, in terms of kindling the fire, is very humble. The problem lies in Lebanon and in the diversity of the Lebanese factions. This is what we should focus on. When we redress things, however, we should redress everything.

At the conclusion of the news conference, Muhammad al-Ba'labakki, doyen of Lebanese journalists, thanked Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi on behalf of all Lebanese journalists. He also voiced his confidence the blessed summit meeting between the two presidents greatly will benefit the two sisterly countries.

Al-Hirawi, Delegation Depart

JN2301140390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss left Damascus at 1130 today following a visit to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Papers Praise Results

JN2401084090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Fruitful Visit," TISHRIN says: The visit to Damascus by the leaders of the legitimate Lebanese Government and their talks with President Hafiz al-Asad constitute a turning point in efforts to advance the Lebanese situation on the road to solution and relaxation.

TISHRIN adds: These talks were deep and covered all aspects of the Lebanese crisis and means to entrench legitimacy, reinforce its institutions, safeguard the fraternal country's territorial integrity, and confront rebel 'Awn.

TISHRIN says: The Lebanese leaders realized during this visit leader Al-Asad's concern about helping the Lebanese end their ordeal and about doing all that would alleviate their sufferings and reinforce the legitimate government. This firm Syrian stand is an extension of Syria's approach toward Lebanon. In harmony with its fraternal role in saving Lebanon, Syria, through leader Al-Asad, expressed its unlimited readiness to extend every assistance requested by the legitimate Lebanese Government to overcome the difficulties preventing it from spreading its control over all Lebanese territories. At the same time, leader Al-Asad said partitioning Lebanon is prohibited, and Syria will extend every help to safeguard Lebanon's unity.

TISHRIN stresses such a resolute stand provides strong support for the legitimate Lebanese Government, which confronts the advocates and symbols of partition inside and outside Lebanon, and seeks to safeguard the unity of the Lebanese people and land.

TISHRIN adds: The legitimate Lebanese leaders' visit to Damascus was successful, useful, and fruitful, and its results will reflect positively on the Lebanese situation.

Under the headline "The Determination to Save Lebanon," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Out of his comprehensive view of events and their developments, and his unique ability to discern future prospects and possibilities, leader Hafiz al-Asad clearly has defined the nature of the Syrian-Lebanese relations and highlighted their strong bases, from which they derive their continuation. He also stressed the strategic constants of these relations, whether regarding the ties of brotherhood linking Syria and Lebanon, or Syria's determination to extend all required of it to help the legitimate government spread its control over all Lebanese territories.

AL-BA'TH adds: From this premise, the Lebanese president's visit to Syria constitutes the most important step in the march of saving Lebanon following the signing of the al-Ta'if agreement and the revival of the legitimate Lebanese Government. This visit has crystallized the two fraternal countries' convergence on clear and practical common denominators that help advance the march of salvation through extending all required support for the legitimate government, enabling it to assume its national responsibilities toward reunifying Lebanon and to foil all plots and conspiracies.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Rejects Comparison With East Bloc Leaders

BK2401114490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 24 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah rejected Wednesday [24 January] comparisons of his Soviet-backed government to toppling East bloc regimes, and said he saw no reason to step down.

The former chief of the feared Afghan secret service, Khad, which has previously been blamed for thousands of killings and torture, said demands that he resign were "pretexts" by the resistance to keep away from negotiations.

"Many leaders can be found in countries with different socio-political systems who in the past had responsibility for security and information (gathering)," he told reporters, in an apparent reference to U.S. President George Bush's past position as Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) boss.

Mr. Najibullah also lambasted Washington for adopting double standards in its handling of Panama and Afghanistan.

In Panama, Washington used the excuse that President Manuel Noriega was a drug trafficker to oust him, he said, while in Afghanistan the United States was supporting Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a resistance leader he described as "a known drug trafficker with connections to the international drug mafia."

"The demands that I step down are a pretext for the continuation of the war," Mr. Najibullah said. "Would it be rational if we ask the leaders of the opposition to step down.... Even if I did, they would set forth a new pretext not to talk.

"Reconciliation requires all sides to come together, not to step down," he added.

The president said the events in Eastern Europe were unrelated to the Afghan situation and insisted that Kabul had been "ahead of East bloc countries" in introducing political reforms and placing greater emphasis on the private sector in the economy.

As examples, he cited the existence of eight legal parties and political groups, the formation of a parliament and a drive to encourage private enterprise.

"Each country has its own conditions. We should not allow our country just to follow (others)," Mr. Najibullah said, adding, however, that "great lessons should be consistently learned" from the fate of East bloc regimes.

He denied rumours that he had been making frequent trips to Moscow in advance of a scheduled meeting between the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers on Afghanistan in the Soviet capital on February 6.

He said any basis for their discussions should be his own national reconciliation policy which centres on a ceasefire and the holding of a meeting in Afghanistan between "peace loving" resistance leaders and his party.

Iran-based Mujahidin Dismiss Soviet Proposal

LD2201183390 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Jan. 22, IRNA—A senior Afghan opposition official today dismissed Moscow's proposal for replacing Marxist President Najibullah with ex-King Zahir Shah as a "futile effort" staged-managed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Hashemi Lolanji, spokesman for the Iran-based 9-party Mujahideen coalition, said "since the imminent fall of Najibullah will be a great victory for the mujahideen, Gorbachev has made the proposal to portray himself as the initiator of resolving the Afghan crisis."

He also criticized the aid to certain mujahideen groups by such countries as France, which he said was aimed at preparing the group for the return to Afghanistan of the ousted monarch, looked upon by the West as a faithful and trustworthy agent.

Lolanji called on all Afghan opposition factions to learn a lesson from the failure of the self-styled interim government, and to hold any elections only after the last trenches of the Kabul regime fell to the Afghan Muslim people.

Torn apart by internal disputes, the Peshawar-based 7-party Pashto government has called for elections in liberated areas of Afghanistan which has been rejected as "impractical" by the 9-party coalition in view of the severe winter.

Mujahidin Issue Statement on Azerbaijan, Kashmir

BK2301163090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1619 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 23 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance Tuesday condemned "Moscow's barbarism in Azerbaijan" and attacked "double standards" in the West towards the Christian-dominated Baltic republics and Moslem-dominated Azerbaijan.

"The double standards used by the Western countries to judge the events in northwestern Soviet Union (Baltic republics) and southern Soviet Union (Azerbaijan) is regrettable and very disturbing," the rebels' Afghan Interim Government (AIG) said in a statement received here.

"The recent massacre of innocent people by the Red Army and KGB troops in Azerbaijan reveals the true face of (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev," the Pakistan-based mujahidin government said.

"He (Mr. Gorbachev) has been able to fool the world and win the title of the man of the decade ... Unfortunately, the world has turned a blind eye on Moscow's continuing interference in Afghanistan and its gross crimes there since the withdrawal of the Red Army troops" last February.

The AIG asked Mr. Gorbachev "to learn a lesson from Afghanistan and be sure that he can never kill a nation's aspiration for freedom by force."

The AIG also condemned the killing of some 60 people in Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir where Moslem militants have launched a separatist movement. "We ask (Indian Prime Minister) V.P. Singh to solve the Kashmir problem by peaceful means and prove that he is different from his predecessor," the statement said.

Vice President Mohtat Leads Delegation to USSR

LD2201162890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Heading a high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, Vice President Abdul Hamid Mohtat left this morning for the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries in order to participate in the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Week.

Vice President Abdul Rahim Hatef saw off the delegation.

Rebels Destroy 4 Transport Planes Since 10 Jan

BK2401003690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0005 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 24 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance said Tuesday it had destroyed one of the government's transport planes near Khowst, in the east of Afghanistan, bringing the total destroyed since January 10 to four.

According to the Afghan news agency MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], run by the Pakistan-based Afghan Interim Government, the plane was on the tarmac at Khowst airport when the airport was hit Monday by heavy artillery fire.

Since January 10, the agency added, four transport planes and one fighter have been destroyed by the guerrillas around the city of Khowst, which the resistance has besieged for two years, effectively cutting all road links.

MIDIA also reported a government attack on mujahidin forces on Monday night at Dargai, to the west of Khowst. During the "counter-attack" which followed, "a high-ranking Afghan officer, Samer Gul, was killed and two of his soldiers were arrested," the resistance agency added.

On Monday, Radio Kabul said government forces had repulsed a new resistance attack from the north the day before, and put "260 extremists (mujahidin fighters) out of action."

Khowst and Jalalabad, two cities near the Pakistani border, have been the main targets of Afghan guerrilla attacks since the last Soviet forces withdrew last February.

Mujahidin Attack Convoy in Samangan, Killing 30

BK2301141890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] In Afghanistan's Samangan Province, mujahidin attacked a Kabul convoy proceeding from Hayratan toward Kabul, killing 30 Kabul officers and soldiers, wounding 10, and capturing 15 others.

Mujahidin also reportedly launched an attack at (Pashkarwan) of Samangan Province, killing three and wounding five Kabul soldiers and destroying five military vehicles.

In another attack in this province, mujahidin killed 5 and wounded 11 Kabul troops, including 1 officer.

India

Pakistan Warned Over 'Negative Role' in Kashmir

BK2301150090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] India has clearly and forcefully conveyed to Pakistan its concern at the evidence of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who left New Delhi for Kathmandu after several rounds of discussions with Indian leaders, was firmly told that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and no interference there was acceptable.

Our correspondent understands that the Indian side made it amply clear to Mr Yaqub Khan that the government will ensure that Jammu and Kashmir remains an integral part of the country—whatever may be the cost. The Pakistan foreign minister was told in unmistakable terms that it will be a grave miscalculation to view the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as an internal uprising, as suggested by certain sections in Pakistan.

This is for the third time in the past 2 weeks that India has pointed out Islamabad's negative role in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma Urges Increased Contacts With Pakistan

BK2001093990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The Indian vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, has stressed the need for increased contacts between Pakistan and India and exchange of delegations from all walks of life so as to promote understanding between the people of the two countries. During a meeting with the Pakistani high commissioner in New

Delhi, the Indian vice president expressed the hope that the process of normalizing relations between the two countries will continue.

The Pakistani high commissioner apprised Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma of the positive progress achieved in this regard due to the agreements concluded at the joint commission meeting in Islamabad in July last year.

Communist Party Criticizes Bhutto on Kashmir

BK2301125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jan Jan 90

[Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] has described the statement of the Pakistan prime minister on the developments in Jammu and Kashmir as blatant interference in India's internal affairs. In a statement issued in New Delhi this evening, the party said that India has consistently been advocating to Pakistan to establish friendly and good-neighborly relations with Pakistan. [sentence as heard] But the statement of Ms Benazir Bhutto will not only harm this process, but also violate the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

Perumal Urges 'Adequate Devolution of Powers'

BK2101085590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadraja Perumal, has urged New Delhi to ensure adequate devolution of powers to the provincial council before the withdrawal of PKF [Peacekeeping Force. The matter came up during the first round of talks between him and the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, in New Delhi.

Talking to our correspondent, Mr Perumal said that he had assured Mr Gujral that the provincial government would extend all cooperation to the efforts initiated by India to bring the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] into the mainstream.

Meanwhile, the former defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has warned against deinduction of the PKF without guaranteeing peace and security to the Tamils in the Northeastern Province.

Suggests UN Role

BK2001092090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 20 (AFP)—The chief minister of Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province called Saturday [20 January] for United Nations intervention if India failed to end continuing violence in the island's Tamil areas.

A. Varadaraja Perumal also accused the Sri Lankan Government of resorting to mass killings to wipe out opposition activists throughout the strife-torn nation.

"India should not wash its hands off (Sri Lankan Tamils)," Mr. Perumal told reporters here, a day after meeting India's External Affairs Minister Inder Gujral. "Or otherwise India should hand over the matter to international forums like the United Nations," he added, speaking on the eighth day of his visit to New Delhi.

Mr. Perumal, a leader of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, did not specify what role he envisaged for the United Nations in his country's Tamil areas. He said his discussions with Mr. Gujral would continue Monday.

Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Northeast under a 1987 bilateral accord aimed at ending Tamil separatism are set to return by March 31 after seeking and failing to disarm die-hard Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Areas already vacated by the troops have witnessed bloody fighting between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and supporters of Mr. Perumal's Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

Mr. Perumal said he was not in favour of a permanent deployment of Indian troops in Sri Lanka but "a withdrawal in the present situation will mean India is withdrawing from its obligation given to Tamils."

He also reiterated his threat to resume the bloody separatist campaign for an independent Tamil homeland called Eelam if India failed to ensure the safety and security of the Tamil minority.

Mr. Perumal is a senior member of the pro-India EPRLF, which controls the administration in Sri Lanka's Northeast and is not on the best of terms with Colombo.

India and Sri Lanka agreed at talks here this month to exert their respective influence over the EPRLF and the LTTE to stop the fighting in the region.

The chief minister charged that more than 30,000 people had been killed in the last six months in Sri Lanka, mainly at the hands of security forces and vigilante groups.

"Anarchy, political killings and illegal activities are being promoted and supported by the Sri Lankan Government," he alleged, accusing Colombo of wanting to resolve its political differences militarily.

Mr. Perumal, who described his 30-minute meeting with Mr. Gujral on Friday as hopeful, is expected to return to Sri Lanka this week.

Special Courts To Try 1984 Anti-Sikh Riot Cases

BK2301160790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The government today announced the constitution of three special sessions courts to deal exclusively with the cases of November 1984 riots in the capital [following the assassination of Indira Gandhi]. A Delhi administration statement said that these courts will be located at Tees Hazari, Patiala House, and Shahdara.

Our correspondent, Sachindra Mohan Sinha, reports that while 225 cases involving more than 2,300 persons have been registered in the wake of riots, only 107 cases have been disposed of so far. The remaining cases are pending trial at various levels. The Delhi administration has also designated special prosecutors to help the three courts and to coordinate with the police. The progress of prosecution will be monitored periodically to ensure expeditious disposal of the cases.

Kashmir Governor Makes Appeal; 2 More Killed

BK2301145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor has renewed his appeal to the misguided people to surrender illegal weapons so that the need does not arise to conduct searches. He said essential items like milk and tea are being distributed to the needy.

Meanwhile, in an incident in Sonawal, Srinagar, this morning, a kangdi [small earthen pot containing cinders] was reported to have been hurled at a jeep carrying UN officials. The guards escorting them opened fire, in which two persons were killed and two injured. A case has been registered, and further action is being taken according to law.

The governor has sanctioned 50,000 rupees each to next to kin of the deceased and 5,000 rupees to the injured. Mr Jag Mohan said rumors are being spread intentionally to disturb peace. He appealed to the people not to lend ears to such rumors.

4 Killed, 10 Wounded in Srinagar Firing

BK2301124490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 4 people were killed and 10 injured when security forces opened fire in Sonawal locality of Srinagar city during the curfew relaxation period today. Agency reports quoting police sources said that some car-borne militants shot at the security forces who returned the fire, killing four people. The militants, however, escaped.

Meanwhile, curfew was imposed in the Kulgam and Awantipura towns this morning as a precautionary measure. Curfew continues in 13 other towns of the Kashmir valley.

Sikh Student Federation Leader Shot Dead

BK2401074790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] In Punjab, the general secretary of the All India Sikh Students Federation, Mr Harminder Singh Sandhu, was shot dead by some unidentified assailants in Amritsar this morning. According to the general secretary of the Akali Dal-Mann, Mr Gurtej Singh, two persons came to Mr Sandhu's residence and one of them shot and seriously injured him while he was attending to a phone call. Mr Sandhu was later declared dead in the hospital.

Iran

Further on Situation in Soviet Azerbaijan

Azeris Stop Crossing Border

LD2301154690 Tehran IRNA in English 1406 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Bileh Savar, E. Azarbayjan Prov., Jan. 23, IRNA—Soviet citizens have stopped crossing this border point to Iran since this morning and the Soviet military and disciplinary forces are just watching those who had already gone to the other side of the border, return home. A number of Soviet military vehicles and armoured personnel carriers have been observed on the other side of the border.

In related news, transit of goods from the Soviet Union to Iran through Astara, south of here, was resumed this morning. Astara customs office was closed to trucks since the people of Soviet Azerbaijan began flooding Astara five days ago. Soviet security and military officials are still stationed along the border preventing the people of Azerbaijan from entering Astara.

According to reports reaching from the provincial capital of Tabriz, the Soviet customs office at Jolfa region is still closed with all activities coming to a standstill following the recent developments along the border with Iran. The customs office has been closed since January 15 and there is yet no information on when it would resume operation.

Tehran Ceremony Mourns Dead

LD2301220190 Tehran IRNA in English 1807 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 23, IRNA—Tehranis today held a mourning ceremony, and condemned the killing of Muslims in the Republic of Azerbaijan during the recent Soviet military action.

Organized by Tehran's Assembly of Combat 'Ulema, the requiem for the Azeri Muslims was attended by people from all walks of life including Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, Majles deputies, minsters and several Foreign Ministry officials.

Mr 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri criticised Moscow and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for killing the Muslim people of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He termed as "brutal" the Soviet troops' storming of Baku, which he said led to the massacre of many Muslims. He held Gorbachev responsible for issuing the order for the attack. "You travelled to Lithuania to negotiate with the people when they demanded independence, but in Azerbaijan you simply issued the order for massacre," said Nateq-Nuri addressing himself to the Soviet leader.

It is wise for the Soviet leadership to avoid the trap laid by the United States in the Caucasus, said the one-time interior minister, and warned that world Muslims cannot be indifferent towards the killing of their brethren in Azerbaijan.

Red Army Presence in Baku Deplored

NC2301224890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jan 90

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] It seems that the massive and angry popular presence during the farewell ceremony for the martyrs of the Red Army's intervention in Baku, the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, has left its mark on the positions of the key parties to the acute crisis that resulted from the Red Army's entry into this Muslim region. The participation of a million Muslims in the farewell ceremony of those described by Moscow as criminals and thugs has naturally left its mark on Gorbachev himself, prompting him to change the preceding description to the more sympathetic one of victims and to express his condolences [words indistinct]. However, the impact of this massive participation is not confined to this but has gone beyond the change in the perestroyka leader's descriptions to more important matters.

During the evening of the farewell ceremony, a military column of the Red Army came under an armed attack that was more like an attack by guerrillas in popular wars. The attack left two Soviet military men dead and others wounded, according to official statistics.

At the official level, a number of Azerbaijani parliamentarians, in statements carried by Baku radio, have expressed their determination to call for a public and popular referendum to settle the issue of secession from Soviet state and to declare its independence should the Red Army troops refuse to withdraw from Soviet Azerbaijan. It is clear that such a decision is possible, in view of the negative impact resulting from the entry of the Red Army into Muslim Azerbaijan and the massacres it committed there. In light of all these developments, Moscow is undoubtedly required to quickly take the necessary measures to wipe out the negative effects resulting from its latest grave mistake of employing discrimination in its dealing with the Muslim Soviets. In doing so, Moscow fell very badly under the influence of crusader agitations of the West as well as the pro-Zionist propaganda machine. It also failed to heed the warnings made by the leader of the Islamic nation, Ayatollah Khamene'i, over the dangers of resorting to violence in dealing with the legitimate demands of the Muslim Soviets, who for 70 years have suffered from the most ferocious kinds of ideological and physical terrorism.

Azeris Building Bridge Across Aras

LD2401092790 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Poldasht, East Azarbayjan, Jan. 24, IRNA—Despite strict measures imposed by the Soviet Army on the Iranian border, about 300 people of Nakhijevan gathered along the boder Aras River, 20 kms west of here, Tuesday [23 January]. The event took place while 28 PMP [Pomtomo Mostovoy Park] personnel carriers and other military vehicles were patrolling on the military road along the river.

Meanwhile, another group of Soviet Azeris crossed the river into Iran from various points Tuesday afternoon and a group of 13 who had entered Poldasht on Monday, were tranferred to the other side of the river by Iranian border guards.

The Soviet border guards who increased their patrol activity on Tuesday, in the afternoon halted the operation of the people who were building a bridge over the Aras River in an area 30 kms west of here. But, following a gathering by the people and their ultimatum to the Soviet forces, the operation was resumed later and six meters of the foundation of the bridge was laid from 15:00 hours to 18:00 hours local time. The Soviet forces were observing the operation from an area near the Shatli village.

In another development and in an unprecedented measure, female announcers of the Nakhijevan television appeared on the screen Tuesday night while wearing black headscarves. Apparently, the measure was taken as a sign of mourning for those who had been killed in clahses in Sadrak Region and also for the victims of the Baku carnage.

Commentary on Kremlin's 'Butchery'

NC2401102390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary from the "International Affairs" program]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of God. From the very beginning of the events in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, there was the possibility of a large- scale intervention by government forces. There were early signs that the Armenians were being portrayed by the Western, U.S., and even Soviet media as the victims of Islamic violence.

The first indication of what was to happen came when the Armenian national assembly called on Soviet President Gorbachev to send troops to the Republic of Azerbaijan to protect the Armenians and warned of the possibility of civil war between Azerbaijanis and Armenians. Only a day after the request was made and reported in the local and international news media, the Supreme Soviet Presidium met in Moscow under the chairmanship of Mikhail Gorbachev and decided to dispatch army units and reservists to the Republic of Azerbaijan. Some 20,000 men were sent to that area but even before they arrived in Azerbaijan, the Western news media launched a propaganda crusade against Muslims.

As the Soviet troops marched to Azerbaijan to the drumbeat of Western propaganda, a media (?blackout) was imposed on the news of attacks against Muslims living in the Republic of Armenia. Militant Armenians besieged the Nakhijevan region and cut off all services, including water, electicity, and gas. According to some reports, Armenians strafed Azeri villages with gunfire from helicopters that flew constantly over these villages and spread panic among the public.

Western political quarters were all agreed that for the sake of preserving the USSR's unity at this critical juncture in its history, the Soviet president should resort to force against the Republic of Azerbaijan. In some cases, the Western media went so far as to criticize Gorbachev for his tendency to compromise and pressed him for decisive action, even if that action were unpopular and would lead to bloodshed. Their provocative tone was barely disguised.

To be sure, as the Soviet troops arrived in Azerbaijan to the West's approval, Moscow's position was greatly influenced by the West's prodding. The next thing was bloodshed in Baku. This is not to diminish in any way the Kremlin's responsibility for the butchery. Soviet policies were in perfect harmony with Western propaganda. The combination of the two was fatal.

It is remarkable how the Moscow central government used strong- arm policies with the Azerbaijanis while handling the other Soviet republics with kid gloves. Lithuania is a case in point. Gorbachev spent 3 days in Lithuania pleading for the sympathy of the workers and employees, as well as his communist comrades. He got a few harsh words in response and was interrupted during his speeches. Despite that, Gorbachev returned to Moscow and no one heard him utter one hostile word against the leaders of Lithuania.

In contrast, when the Soviet Army swept into and used force in Azerbaijan, with authorization from Gorbachev, the renowned architect of perestroyka, everyone cheered. Even some Arab media began describing the Azerbaijanis as rebels.

The use of force against Muslims in Azerbaijan recalls Stalin's repressive measures against the Muslims of the Caucasus in general after his predecessor Lenin failed to confront them. Muslims are wary of perestroyka. This policy, which promises openness and reform, seems to accommodate secession in Lithuania while it prescribes a clampdown on Azerbaijan.

It is possible that the Soviet Army will succeed in temporararily suppressing Azerbaijani opposition. However, increasing cracks in the Soviet system and the mounting Islamic tide among Azerbaijanis may lead to a renewed and even fiercer eruption of violence. Some thought that events in Lithuania would determine the fate of the Soviet Union, but it now seems that events in Azerbaijan will determine the fate of Gorbachev.

Velayati Statement on USSR May 'Harm' Future

LD2301160590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Dear listeners. The Islamic Republic's Foreign Minister has issued a statement in connection with events in Soviet Azerbaijan. That statement in effect is placing the interventionist remarks made a few days ago by Khamene'i into an official context. On that day, in his meeting with a group of women, the regime's leader noted the events in Soviet Azerbaijan, attributing their causes to those people seeking Islam. While expressing support for the extremists moves in Soviet Azerbaijan, he tried to make decisions on behalf of the government and officials of the Soviet Union on how to deal with their country's events.

The Foreign Ministry's statement refers to this, and is aimed at justifying the apparent and latent interventions the Islamic regime has been conducting at the same time it expands its ties with its neighbor country. Although the main engineers of Islamic regime's official position vis-a-vis events in Soviet Azerbaijan have tried very hard to hide the role and the degree of the regime's involvement in that issue, the statement, however, points to some issues which reveal the various dimensions of the whole affair. For instance, the gathering of a group of Soviet Azerbaijani people on the borders, and the destruction of border installations and illegal entry are cleverly attributed to consequences of changes that have resulted in creating means to express Islamic identity, so that the instigations of elements of the regime may be (?justified). Or for instance, the bloody events in Baku and other regions of Soviet Azerbaijan are analyzed as being the result of the infiltration of suspicious and anti-Islamic elements into the ranks of the so-called true Islamists. In this way they try to justify Khamene'i's support for the extremist (?elements) in Baku, as well as hiding the possibility of Islamic regime's direct involvement in (?rebellion) in Soviet Azerbaijan, because of late, Gorbachev, in IZVESTIYA, officially talked about the Islamic Republic's involvement in Azerbaijan events. The statement, in its justification for reasons behind clashes, has given itself the right to issue certain (?orders). For instance, it has talked about violent measures of the Soviet Government, while accusing that government of a one-sided attitude in the face of ongoing ethnic conflicts.

In summary, the Foreign Ministry's statement is an official declaration of full support for events taking place in another country's (?territory), and with differing causal factors [as heard]. Of course, here and there in that statement there are certain considerations, chiefly the result of the current good economic and commercial ties between the Islamic regime and the USSR. However, in any case, interventionism is the main essence of Islamic regime's positions vis-a-vis events on the other side of Aras River. Even though such events concern another country, and the resolution of that problem is the sole responsibility of the people and the government of that country, we are accountable.

The formulators of the regime's diplomacy, in their justification for the Islamic Republic's intervention in Soviet Azerbaijan's events, mention the regime's general interest in the fate of Muslims the world over. Such fabrication of reasons has no value for the people of Iran and are merely repeats of old ploys that the ruling regime have consistently used to further their expansionist objectives. The regime's recent intervention in the neighboring country's affairs shows that despite the repeated setbacks of interventionist policies vis-a-vis another country, the Islamic regime's statesmen are not intent on learning lessons from past experiences and still continue to disregard international regulations, as well as conventions governing good-neighborly relations. In the past, such policies have always been disadvantagous to our national interests. This time the consequences and results can also harm the future interests of the country and people.

Pakistan National Assembly Speaker Meets Karrubi

LD1801132790 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran expects friendly countries to exert pressure on Iraq to comply with the execution of the U.N. peace resolution 598, said Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi in a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Malik Meraj Khalid here Wednesday.

"We are sincerely willing to have good relations with Islamic countries and are in favor of a genuine peace and tranquility in the region and in the Persian Gulf," Karrubi pointed out in the meeting. Khalid arrived here Wednesday morning at the head of a parliamentary delegation on a week-long state visit.

Stressing that "Islam is a bridge between Iranian and Pakistani peoples," Karrubi said "I am certain that Islam will further consolidate relations between the two governments and nations." He also underlined that the two countries' parliaments play "the most important role in expansion of bilateral relations" adding that the first parliamentary group of friendship with Pakistan has been formed.

Further in the meeting, the two sides stressed the need for Muslim unity and for a united front against anti-Islamic forces.

Karrubi voiced the conviction that if the world Muslims become united, they will be capable of depriving arrogant powers of exploiting Islamic countries. He cited Palestinian and Lebanese resistance and massive mobilization of Muslims the world over against the publication of the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses' as clear examples in this connection.

Khalid said the Pakistani nation, 'inspired by Iranian struggles led by Imam Khomeyni, enthusiastically follow up developments of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the campaign of the Iranian Muslim nation against imperialism.' He invited Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi to visit Pakistan which was accepted.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD2001112390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Meraj Khaled, the Pakistani National Assembly speaker, who is visiting our country at the head of a delegation, met this morning with Foreign Minister Velayati. They discussed bilateral relations, regional and international developments, and the Afghanistan issue.

According to a Central News Unit report, the Pakistani Assembly speaker, referring to the deep cultural, historic, religious and national links between the two countries, expressed satisfaction with the level of mutual ties. He expressed the hope that bilateral relations would expand through the efforts of the two countries' officials, and that cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey would be strengthened within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO].

Velayati also welcomed the expansion of bilateral relations and increased cooperation within ECO. He briefed the Pakistani National Assembly speaker and the accompanying delegation on the latest developments concerning bilateral relations, regional and international developments. He called the exchange of parliamentarian delegations between the two countries as a positive and useful step toward increased cooperation.

Confers With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2101141990 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Visiting Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Malik Meraj Khalid said to the Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today that his nation appreciates Iran's efforts for pan-Islamic solidarity. He said also that Pakistan supports Iran's position in major international issues. The Pakistani official also indicated to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that Pakistanis look forward to seeing him in Pakistan as their guest of honor.

In response President Hashemi-Rafsanjani appreciated the position of the Pakistani Government, and spoke highly of the position of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto saying that the Islamic Republic is intent on promoting relations with Pakistan in economic, cultural and other areas, and that there are many areas of common interest for cooperation between the two countries.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said having established a closer cooperation Iran and Pakistan will play a more significant role in relation with the regional developments. The Iranian president also extended an invitation to the Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to visit Tehran.

In another meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday Navy Commander of Pakistan General Yastural Haq Malek expressed the interest of his government to cooperate with Iran in naval and maritime affairs. He said as a result of the Iraq-Iran War the Navy of the Islamic Republic has obtained a great deal of experience which Pakistan would be interested to learn. He said his country also has a naval technology which would be willing to share with Iran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in response that the recent contacts between the various officials of the two countries evidences the willingness of both countries to establish closer collaboration in areas of mutual interests. He also observed that Iran and Pakistan have their own experience with their naval fleets which could exchange in their mutual interest.

Navy Commander of Iran Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani was also present at the meeting.

Voices Support for Azeris

LD2401113990 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Qom, Jan. 24, IRNA—The visiting Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Malik Meraj Khalid heading a delegation arrived here Tuesday.

In an interview with IRNA, Khalid termed his talks with Iranian officials as fruitful and expressed hope that a new chapter would be opened in friendly ties between the two countries with the agreements reached during his visit.

Praising the achievements of the Islamic Revolution, Khalid said the Pakistani and other Muslim nations can use Iran's experiences gained under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Turning to the recent events in the Soviet Azerbaijan, he said it was the Muslim people of Azerbaijan's natural right to choose their own politico-social life. He added the Muslim people there were willing to be independent of the communist party.

Under the new political atmosphere in the Soviet Union and after years of suppression and despotism, the Soviet Azeris should be free in achieving their primary goals such as freedom and the right to determine their own fate, he said.

He stressed that harsh treatment vis-a-vis the liberation seeking movement of the Azerbaijani people would make the situation more complicated.

Khalid also lauded Iran's rational stand towards Azerbaijan developments and rejected some mass media allegations that Tehran was instigating the Soviet Azeris.

With regards to recent developments in the Eastern Europe and various parts of the Soviet Union, the Moscow government must respect the legitimate demands of the Azeri people and avoid violence, he said.

On developments in Jammu-Kashmir of India, he said the Muslim people there want independence, and stressed that any hostile encounter with these people would bring no results but further aggravation of the situation.

Khalid and his entourage arrived in Tehran last Wednesday for a week-long visit. He inspected historical places and monuments in the central city of Esfahan before arriving here.

The delegation, the first Pakistani friendship parliamentary team to Iran, visited the holy shrine of Hazrat Ma'suma (PBUH) [peace be upon her], sister of Imam Reza (PBUH) [peace be upon him] the eighth imam of the household of the prophet (PBUH), as well as the Feiziyeh theological center, and the former residence of Imam Khomeyni here.

Pakistan Navy Commander Holds Talks With Shamkani

LD1801134790 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Visiting Pakistani Navy Commander General Yastur-ul-Hagh Malek met his Iranian counterpart Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani here Thursday morning and discussed issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Shamkhani briefed Malek on Iran's naval policy and its self-sufficiency in educational fields. He also stressed the might of the Iranian naval fleets extended throughout the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea waters to the mouth of the Indian Ocean. On the Persian Gulf security, he said it will be secured only when the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran is guaranteed. He also called for further expansion of bilateral relations.

Malek arrived here Wednesday to hold talks on upgrading of Iran-Pakistan cooperation in marine and shipping areas. Calling for non-presence of the superpowers in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea, the Pakistani guest urged the need for collaboration among Muslim countries to confront big power threats.

After the meeting, Admiral Shamkhani told IRNA that Malek's visit to Iran aimed at developing ties between the two neighbouring countries and to follow up previous bilateral negotiations held earlier in Pakistan. The existence of extensive economic, political and military cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad was also underlined by Shamkhani who expressed the hope that the two countries' cooperation would result in the establishment of a consolidated peace in the region.

During the visit, Shamkhani added, General Malek will also be informed of the latest developments regarding the U.N. resolution 598 on peace between Iran and Iraq's blocking the peace process.

Meets With IRGC Naval Commander

LD2001112890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] Navy commander, in a meeting today with the Pakistani Navy commander, stressed the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf. According to a Central News Unit report, the Pakistani Navy commander also stressed the need for more cooperation, particularly in training, and called for closer ties between the IRGC naval forces and the Pakistani Navy.

Meets Joint Staff Chief Shahbazi

LD2101165690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] General Yasurul Haq Malik, Pakistani chief of Navy staff, met Brigadier General Shahbazi, the joint staff chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, this morning. According to the Central News Unit, in the meeting Brigadier General Shahbazi referred to the two countries' actual and potential talents and expressed the hope that Iran and Pakistan would be able to make good progress without reliance on the superpowers.

The Army's Joint Staff chief noted the good trend of cooperation between the two countries' naval forces in educational and training matters and added: It is expected that the two countries' naval knowledge will make further progress with the exchange of information. Pakistan's chief of Navy Staff, for his part, stressed that Iran had emerged from the imposed war with pride and that it had gained valuable experience. He referred to two countries' cultural, economic, and political common points and described them as a cause for a sense of ever-increasing closeness between the two nations. He conveyed his country's readiness to provide the spare parts needed by the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval force.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Governors General

LD2001230490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] In a gathering of governors general from throughout the country, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, stressed that participation of the people in affairs is one of our policies and the government is unable tò do everything without assistance from the people.

In the gathering, the president referred to the fact that the 5-year plan has been drafted with reliance on Islamic foundations, the Constitution, and the ideals of the Islamic Republic, and added: After acceptance of the resolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, made it incumbent on the Reconstruction Council to draw up programs, and our plan is just that, which was approved by his eminence the imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds.

The president added that currently, the designation of the Islamic Republic's general policies is one of the prerogatives of the eminent leader [Khamene'i]. Fortunately, his eminence played an active role in the process of drawing up and creating the plan and its policies. And, God be praised, the backing of his eminence the leader for the plan is very good support for us.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the full exploitation of the country's productive capacities. He added that we must not allow that capacity to remain idle and that the governors general must try to ensure that maximum benefit is drawn from all productive resources in the sectors of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, industries, handicraft, and in all productive matters in the provinces.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the recommendations of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, with regard to the full participation of the people in affairs. He said the people's participation is one of our policies and the government is unable to do everything without any assistance from the people. Therefore, the handing over of strategic affairs [as heard], where it is not disallowed by the Constitution, is one of the policies of the government's 5-year plan. Activation of the stock exchange is one of the preliminaries toward that end.

The president referred to the fact that decentralization is another one of the 5-year plan's policies and, turning to the issue of red tape in offices, he said the removal of red tape requires legal reform and reform in individual behavior. And, God willing, we will soon begin work in that area. We must all try to change people's outlooks with respect to administrative organizations.

Khamene'i Delivers Address to Governors General

LD2101141790 Tehran Domesict Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in a meeting comprising the interior minister, ministry officials, and the country's governors general, reiterated that the governors general should devote greater attention to the people's problems, specifically in the deprived areas. He remarked that reflection, expediency, faith, management, and proper discernment are among the prerequisites for governorship; he described them as the representatives of the Islamic Republic's system in the country's provinces.

During the meeting the leader of the Islamic revolution described the managerial role of the governors general as multi-dimensional, adding: The governors general are representatives of the system in the provinces, and if the system is all-encompassing and belonging to the oppressed, it should be manifest in the behavior, speech, and actions of the governors general; and the people's thoughts in Islam, the revolution, and the system should be evident in the governors general.

Pointing out that the governors general should play a paternal role toward the various tribes and sects in their area of duty, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i called on them to try to bridge the gap between various factions and to resolve their differences. He graciously said: Imam Khomeyni, may God's blessing be upon him, as a man of wisdom, precision, and endowed with lofty ideas, who possessed the ability to predict many events, believing that Islam and the revolution strode forward under the guiding hand of God. I also share the same opinion and believe that God's guidance and protection will continue as long as we heed the Islamic faith, keep close to God, and carry out our divine duties. The country's governors general, as the system's important elements, should heed the divine duties in carrying out their duties.

Concluding his remarks, the Islamic revolution leader stressed that the governors general should try to familiarize themselves with the people's problems, and should frequently visit the deprived. He reiterated the importance of this task in achieving the unending aims of work and activity.

Governors General Reportedly Purged, Replaced

LD2201195190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Yesterday, Hashemi-Rafsanjani participated in the closing session of the 3-day gathering of the country's governors general. In his remarks, emphasizing that the principal policies of the regime, including drawing up the 5-year plan, were carried out with Khamene''i's approval, he then explained the 5-year plan to the governors general. Today too, Khamene'i, during a meeting with the governors general, termed them the embodiment of the system in the provinces.

It is worth mentioning during the past few months, a number of the country's governors general haave been purged and replaced by tools affiliated to the leader-president camp. The said gathering too has taken place in this connection, and after the fact that the latest clashes of the ruling factions have had acute repercussions in some provinces. In this gathering, and in the closing sessions, the regime's officials endeavored to brief the governors general about the policies of the leader-president faction.

Khamene'i Addresses Seminarians on Spread of Islam

LD2101143690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpt] This morning His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, received lecturers, officials, scholars, and theologians from Qom's Baqi al-'Olum educational foundation. His eminence referred to intellectual and ideological changes and developments in the world and embarked on an explanation of the role and position of the Islamic Republic's system and government and the idea behind it, stressing the need for the transformation of the plentiful intellectual and spiritual resources available in seminaries into bubbling fountains of Islamic teachings and commands for the purpose of responding to the doubts and questions of human society.

In the meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in his remarks, noted the vast extent of the communication and onslaught of wrong and deviant ideas in the world and said: Today there is greater preparedness for the acceptance of Islamic thought, and the possibility for the spread of monotheistic thought in the world is much greater than before. Inside the country too, Islam is considered to be the basis of life and social order by the great Iranian nation. Monotheism and Islamic teachings are the basis of government, running the country, managing affairs, and the principle of life.

The Islamic revolution leader referred to the impossibility of publicizing religion under the former Pahlavi regime, and to the current great enthusiasm of young people, university students, and social analysts, for familiarizing themselves with Islamic teaching and said: The occurence of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of a political and social system on the basis of religion in Iran was a great event which turned the world's attention to religion; it made a reappraisal of Islamic and non-Islamic religious matters unavoidable, because the Islamic revolution destroyed the ideological foundations of materialism which had turned atheism and materialism into a school of thought and a social struggle, and the Islamic revolution melted this materialistic ideology as if it had been made of ice.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the guardian of all Muslims enumerated the changes which had come about in bloc alliances and in the divisions of power and, referring to the fact that the real problem of the (?display) of power is not yet clear in the world, said: The revelation of the poles of power in the world may take a few years; there is no doubt, however, that the Islamic system and government, and the idea behind it, have an important position, role, and responsibility in the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the base for Islam and as the place in which Islam has been implemented, must prepare itself in accordance with the world's new ideological and political situation to respond to all the needs and ideological and spiritual questions of human society.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Islamic revolution leader referred to the delicacy, precision, and profundity of Shiite jurisconsults in their amazing studies and said: We possess rich and very vast resources, including the verses of the Holy Koran and Islamic hadiths [the prophet's teachings]. Today, in proportion to the need and the questions which exist—from an ideological and spiritual point of view—we must create, from the strong framework and strong authority of the religious seminaries and the plentiful ideological and spiritual resources which exist in the seminaries, bubbling fountains of Islamic teachings and commands for the purpose of answering those question.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene‘i ended his remarks by praising Qom's Baqi al-‘Olum educational foundation as a very blessed, useful, and worthy center, and he expressed the hope that plans drawn up in the seminaries will do away with the anxiety of those people who are worried about the future of the world. [passage omitted]

Khamene‘i Meets With Lebanese Delegation

LD2301123790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene‘i, leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of the world's Muslims, in a meeting this morning with the delegation of the ‘ulema from Jabal Amil in Lebanon, emphasized the growing trend of zeal for Islam [eslam-gara‘i] in Lebanon, in spite of the various kinds of pressures brought upon by global arrogance on Islamic movements in that country. He stated: Uncompromising, pure, revolutionary, and anti-arrogance-directed Islam in Lebanon will never be eliminated. Anyone who confronts it will be forced to withdraw from their positions.

The leader of the Islamic revolution, while expressing delight at this meeting, addressed the ‘ulema of the Jabal Amil in Lebanon, and graciously said: I can always detect in you goodness and correctness, knowledge and a revolutionary spirit; problems will end but that which is everlasting is the divine call for direction toward divine objectives. Today the great experience of history is before us and you can see how Islam—in spite of visible and propoganda pressures brought upon it by arrogant powers—has brought such great change in the world and how the appearance and presence of the Islamic call is expanding daily.

His eminence, referring to the point that the enemies of Islam, during the past 10 years committed every act they could against Islam but that revolutionary Islam appeared with greater strength and depth on the arena of mankind's life, said: The same development that has today occurred in Lebanon can be clearly seen throughout the world and it is our duty to preserve our Islamic existence with greater strength and power.

This report states that before the remarks made by the respected leader of the Islamic revolution, Mr Shaykh ‘Afif Nablusi, speaker of the delegation of the ‘ulema of Lebanon's Jabal Amal, while emphasizing the renewed allegiance of the ‘ulema and Muslim nation of Lebanon with the vice regent of the world's Muslims, presented a report on the situation of Lebanon and Jabal Amil to his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene‘i and said: The struggles of the Muslim nation of Lebanon are the natural extension of the Islamic revolution in that country and the alert ‘ulema of Lebanon—bearing in mind the sacred goals of the Islamic revolution in the world—will never permit the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam to prepare the grounds for world arrogance to exert its influence over that country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Speech Views Status of Women

LD1801133290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Today, on the anniversary of the birth of Saddiqah al-Kobra [a title of Fatimah, the Prophet's daughter] Her Holiness Fatimah the Pure, peace be upon her, and Women's Day, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave a speech at a gathering of a number of ladies in educational institutions in various parts of Tehran and instructors and students of the Karaj Teachers Training College. While expressing his felicitations on the blessed birthday of the great lady of Islam, Her Holiness Fatimah the Pure, peace be upon her, as well as the anniversary of the birthday of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, blessed be his noble soul, he said: In contemporary and past history, the social status of women has always been insecure and accompanied by various excesses. However, today we are experiencing a new situation which is dignified and valuable.

Referring to the status of Iranian women before and after the Islamic revolution, the president stressed: With the victory of the Islamic revolution under the leadership of the imam of the ummah, whose words were regarded as most authoritative by all due to his position as the source of emulation, Iranian women entered the stage of political, social, and cultural activities and found an active presence in the Majles, and in universities and other fields. It was demonstrated that there was nothing wrong with such activities from a religious viewpoint. If today women do not achieve their rightful position in such activities it is not due to religious limitations, but to other reasons which should be eliminated.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the role of Iranian women during the days of victory of the revolution and during the imposed war. He said: The presence of women in supporting the battlefields showed that the notion that women become weak under the influence of emotions is not correct.

Referring to the fact that the extensive presence of Iranian women in the various stages of the revolution has brought about a new status for women, the president said: You can see that in some Islamic countries like

Lebanon the women are following you, and this issue is becoming apparent in various Islamic countries. The president described the present juncture in the history of the Islamic revolution as a new turning point for Muslim women, and added: You should prove you are worthy of occupying this stage and that while maintaining your chastity and dignity, you can be present alongside men in all fields of life.

Referring to the transformation of the social position of Iranian women compared with the period before the Islamic revolution, Mr. Hashemi-Rafasanjani said: Today the world's judgment about Iranian woman is different from what it was 10 years ago; now people regard you with a great deal of respect and dignity. They humbly confess that women played a constructive role in the victory of the Islamic revolution and in reconstruction.

At the end of this meeting the women from the sixth educational district of Tehran donated a quantity of gold and jewellery to the president to be given to the fighters of Islam.

Ahmad Khomeyni Meets Military Personnel, Clergy

LD1701173990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] This afternoon a number of the reciters and memorizers of the holy Koran affiliated with the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by a number of clergyman and officials of the ideological-political organization and a number of the military commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni in the Jamaran mosque. In this meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, while expressing his congratulations and felicitations on the occasion of the anniversary of the blessed birthday of Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra, peace be upon her, and the birthday of His Eminence Imam Khomeni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, thanked them for their presence. [video shows the inside of the Jamaran mosque with Ahmad Khomeni addressing a group of people in military uniforms and clerical garb]

RESALAT Editorial Praises Khamene'i Message

NC2201131190 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 Jan 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "A Shining Point in the Islamic System"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The wise message from his eminence the leader to the Majles deputies and the perceptive and great Iranian nation on the "principle of the supreme jurisconsult" is one of the most appropriate ever expressed by the guardian of the Muslims' cause], who has referred to this principle as the immortal legacy of the great leader of the Islamic revolution.

Have we ever paused to ask ourselves why, in a world where it was difficult for the enlightened ones of any country to breathe in an atmosphere removed from the polarization of the East and West, the Islamic revolution reached fruition and the Islamic Republic was established? [passage omitted]

To understand this statement, one need only pay attention to the vast volume of propaganda aimed at destroying this achievement and this source of strength which has come from the loudpeakers of the satans and the media of world arrogance. Nowadays, when these errors are being repeated and certain ignorant individuals or those who have ulterior motives are attempting to weaken the system and present incorrect analyses, the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organiztion] and the foreign media have busied themselves and have directed their attacks at this "strong point of the system." They did not realize that at the first sign from the supreme jurisconsult the entire nation, its thinkers and its organizations, would rally around and protect the "domain" of the "jurisconsult."

This government, this Majles, this judiciary, and this nation and its organizations share the destiny of the leadership. [passage omitted]

ETTELA'AT on Khamene'i's Message to Majles

NC2201212690 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Jan 90 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "The Helmsman and the Passengers"]

[Excerpts] The recent message by the leader of the revolution is reminiscent of the captain of a great ship warning seafarers, passengers and other companions about the sea's dangers and waves and storms. It is also reminiscent of how he honestly informs them of the difficulties ahead.

Clearly, the captain of a ship cannot be indifferent to what occurs around him. We are passengers in a boat moving toward our destinations, and when we are in the same vessel, whether we like it or not, our destinies are linked.

If some passengers want to attain their own rights and endanger the rights of others, for example by trying to make a hole in a corner of the boat, then it is obvious that the others' rights, freedoms, and even their lives are threatened. [passage omitted]

Under the present circumstances, the government should be strengthened. It is trying to serve the deprived people, who themselves are the pioneers and supporters of the revolution and are dependent on the status of the leadership. Criticism and debate are part of the strengthening process. However, under present conditions, nothing except the unity of the officials who are the servants of the people can resolve internal problems and foil external threats and dangers. Criticism, propagation of virtue, and prohibition of vice should also be part of the basic principles. Unity based on honesty, dependent on the supreme jurisconsult, is the real source of deliverance. [passage omitted]

In fact, the speech is a warning to those who accuse and censure Islamic loyalists, the leadership, and the revolution. The speech warns those who try to tarnish the political and ideological prestige of the loyalists, leadership, and revolution by slandering them with accusations, vilifying the loyal servants of the supreme jurisconsult, and accusing them of disobedience.

O both factions [as published], O officials, O newspapers, O defenders of radicalism and uncompromising revolutionaries, O proponents of a nationalized economy and trade, O writers, critics, and others, you and me! If you can serve the people along the path of Islam and its guiding principles, then join hands tightly to cooperate along this path, follow the two principles of criticism and solidarity simultaneously, and act on this basis. Even if you cannot serve for certain reasons, you must still do so for the sake of the people and the revolution; you have to reinforce your solidarity under the auspices of the leadership and strive to attain the holy objectives of the revolution.

If we cannot lift the burden from society's shoulders, at least let us not cover the path with thorns. Many of our confrontations against and conflicts with our friends and associates do not remove any burden from our people's shoulders but instead place greater burdens on them and thorns around them.

KEYHAN Editorial Urges Support for Khamene'i

NC2201213990 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
10 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial "The Blessings of the Supreme Jurisconsult"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Over the years, the burglars and the wealthy and mighty have experimented with attacks and consecutive plans in various forms: intimidation, murder and mayhem, plunder, looting, economic embargoes, military threats, weakening the leadership, internal strife, and so on. This brutality is aimed at Islamic Iran as an onslaught against the "cradle of Islam" in order to uproot the system or to becalm the Islamic revolution within the boundaries of Iran! [passage omitted]

Safeguarding this bounty and protecting the "Absoluteness of the Supreme Jurisconsult," which is a memento of our dear departed imam, are the highest and greatest obligations of this revolutionary ummah and are primary in that larger responsibility given his eminence the leader, who is also the guardian of the Muslims' cause. The task of fortifying the sanctity of this role at this sensitive juncture in history is on the shoulders of Ayatollah Khamene'i, who is the faithful disciple and associate of the great imam.

The eminent leader is aware of his obligations and the hallowed nature of this "pledge," which is rooted in centuries of struggle, piety, and holy war, and which he has to cherish and uphold. It is a pledge which is not confined to an individual or a specific era. [passage omitted]

RESALAT Editorial Assesses 5-Year Plan

NC2201230890 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
10 Jan 90 pp 1, 12

[Ahmad Tavakkoli editorial: "The 5-Year Plan"]

[Excerpts] Following rounds of consecutive discussion and assessment, the 5-Year Plan has finally been approved. Thus next year will the the first year in which the budget of the entire country will be based upon a plan already formulated and approved and which will be presented to the Majles.

In past years the annual budget was not geared toward development, or was erratic, unbalanced, and unhealthy. This trend was left over from the past regime and aggravated by war and foreign elements who were responsible for the present inflation and irregularities. [passage omitted]

The consistent and strong coordination between the Majles and the government in accepting the actual policies and adopting important decisions during the approval process for the plan merits attention. The members of the Plan and Budget Commission were the plan's most earnest defenders, and the opinions of the deputies were also well-considered. On sensitive issues, this coordination seemed more pronounced as the indicator of positive developments to boost healthy commerce and production. This coordination included foreign exchange discussions, foreign credits for production, free industrial and commercial ports, reduction of government involvement, and the impetus for private sector participation. Similarly, this coordination was even more conspicuous in strengthening the basis of our defense. [passage omitted]

If the 5-Year Plan becomes the absolute basis for formulating the annual budget and every minor bottleneck is not considered a reason to deviate from it, we will, God willing, be able to witness tangible changes in the country's economic situation. Failing this, the 5-Year Plan will be reduced to merely a historical document in the record of the Majles' performance.

However, without a doubt, no plan or program is perfect or free from defects. In past planning, the possibility that flaws might surface was ruled out, and this spawned many weaknesses. This time, the plan is based on a forecast of the future and is not rigid. However, one should not ignore the possibility of changes in what has been forecast in the plan. In the event there are changes, it should be possible to steer the plan by suitable maneuvers while keeping to its original course.

Apart from the above observations, three important factors may be noted so that, God willing, we may witness the amelioration of the conditions of the oppressed and of the prestige of the Islamic Republic:

First, we must eliminate that bureaucracy in the administrative departments which have sapped the strength and mobility necessary to implement such plans. Those who have ratified the plan and are to implement it have also admitted to this in Article 23 on attaining the objectives of the plan, which depends on changes and revamping the government department procedures. This sort of extensive red tape animal causes inefficiency and has become so fat that it cannot move correctly, much less propel the damaged and stunted economy of the country in an era of reconstruction! The government should initiate reconstruction itself so that with the establishment of a compact and efficient apparatus, it will have strength and proper jurisdiction to implement the plan.

Second, the issue of rules and regulations for implementing the plan is not subject to the problems of extraneous pressure or paucity of foreign exchange, and we should take swift and sure steps regarding this issue with wisdom and fortitude. [passage omitted]

Third, there is the issue of supervision. If the government's supervisory machinery, such as the Plan and Budget Organization and the high-level oversight by the Islamic Majles, is not present during every phase of action, we cannot be optimistic about completing the plan at the necessary pace, or about reform or eliminating unforeseeable obstacles. We can also not be optimistic about chastising and penalizing possible violators so that the necessary effect can be achieved.

In conclusion, we wish to remind the handful who oppose the plan partially or in full to remember that once the plan is ratified by the Council of Guardians, everyone is expected to support its implementation. This is because those who are deputies of the people will reap its benefits and await the dawning of the day when the prospering of production and a healthy commerce will block the path of amassing of wealth by the heartless opulent ones and those parasites who abound on the streets and in the bazaars as well as in the government departments. The welfare of the people and the glory of the revolution will thus be provided for.

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*Former Oil Company Chairman on Events in USSR

90OI0133C London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Jan 90 p 3

[Article by Hasan Nazih, former head of the National Iranian Oil Company]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] With this motivation and way of thinking, during World War II Stalin sought to separate South Azerbaijan, like North Azerbaijan, from Iran to forestall the danger that one day the people of Azerbaijan would wish to be united with their compatriots in Iran and return to their genuine origin and to the principle of "being Iranian." We all remember, however, what a reaction and what heroic resistance he met in Azerbaijan, and how the people of Azerbaijan and all of Iran destroyed all of his roots and puppets in the Democratic Faction and the Tudeh Party. [passage omitted]

Three Dimensions of the Problem That Have Arisen

1-The international dimension of the issue, meaning the changes that brought on the general process of the collapse of empire systems in the past few decades.

The Soviet Russian empire also (which expanded further after the Yalta Treaty and the end of World War II), as has been mentioned above, is in the process of collapse and Gorbachev's realistic policies, which are in accord with Lenin's ideas, have created a more favorable situation for the liberation of the nations and ethnic groups under Soviet Russian domination.

2-Another dimension is the matter of the unprecedented expansion of liberation movements throughout the world. Ethnic groups in the Soviet Union such as the people of Azerbaijan on the other side of the Iranian border, after enduring centuries of oppression, suffocation, and pressure from the former Soviet leaders, want to make maximum use of the opening of confidence that has become available to the nations under Soviet domination through Gorbachev in the name of Russia's long-term interests, quickly, easily, and as far as possible through peaceful means. The Russian Soviet Republics are colonized people who want, like the colonists in the former British Empire, to liberate themselves from the shackles of colonization. In North Azerbaijan, which belonged to Iran, there were several movements after the 1917 revolution to separate and get free from Russia, which were put down with bloody violence almost unprecedented in the history of the world.

3-Another important issue is worth discussing in its special relationship to the people of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is an inseparable part of Iran and throughout history the people of Azerbaijan have been Iranian according to irrefutable documentation. They have remained Iranian, and they are proud of being Iranian. An almost unanimous majority of millions of Azerbaijanis on that side of the border (with the exception of a minority of adventures, opportunists, and holders from the Democratic Faction), according to the information available, hope to reunite to Iran one day, their original land and country. Every Iranian considers himself a part of such a hope and aspiration, and hopes that Gorbachev's laudable and prudent policy of "liberating" ethnic groups will advance and triumph to the point that the 17 cities of the Caucasus, which were separated from Iran by the imposed Treaty of Turkomanchai, will return to their rightful and original owner, meaning back to the embrace of the mother country.

Recent Events and a Brief Study Thereof

The news of events that have taken place in the several border cities of Azerbaijan (Nakhjevan, Badkubeh, Jalalabad) along the 130-kilometer border, has been reported in two ways:

1-People are calling for an "open border" between Iran and the Soviet Union only so they can travel to see their families in Iran and also so that they can trade with Iran.

2-Extremist, ignorant, and separatist elements have compared the border between North and South Azerbaijan to the Berlin wall, and they claim that this wall has separated seven million Azaris in the Soviet Union from 20 million Azaris in Iran (the newspaper LE MONDE wrote that according to reliable sources, the above population figures are exaggerated, and the true figure is about half the figures these people have given).

According to this writer's investigations, motivated by his long-time interest in preserving Iran's national interests and territorial integrity, conducted directly with knowledgeable and expert compatriots, it has become clear that there are three groups or organizations in North Azerbaijan, called the Popular Front of Azerbaijan [Jebhe-ye Khalq-e Azerbaijan], the National Population [Jam'iyat-e Vatan], and the Islamic Society of Azerbaijanis [Anjoman-e Eslami-ye Azerbaijaniha], all of which participated or chanted slogans in recent events on the basis of their own special expectations and orientations, but the common and main demands of the great majority of the members of these organizations are:

- 1-Establishment of democracy and freedom
- 2-Non-centralization of administrative affairs, the granting of more local authority, and the elimination of one-party rule.
- 3-Permission to use about 17,000 hectares of unused lands (surrounded by barbed wire) for housing construction for about 20,000 Azerbaijanis who left Armenia and are homeless in various cities. Those demanding land to get more attention from the Soviet Russian leadership for their lawful demands are seeking to cut and eliminate the barbed wire in the unused lands and therefore, contrary to the rumors that have been circulating in the last few days, their goal was not to destroy the border barbed wire.
- 4-To obtain general facilities to travel everywhere, including Iran.

There is also a very small minority that is asking how long the "nation" of North Azerbaijan and South Azerbaijan must remain under the domination of Tehran and Moscow! They have the right to have a free and independent government composed of North Azerbaijan and South Azerbaijan! And they are asking for the removal of an imaginary wall, which, according to their claim, has divided the united nation of Azerbaijan into two sections!

In the view of this writer, we must sincerely support the four-fold expectations of the reasonable and realistic majority in the Soviet Union, who are in reality our Iranian compatriots on that side of the border, to the extent that their requests are limited to freedom, democracy, non-centralization of administrative affairs, the procurement of the means of social and public welfare, and especially housing for Azerbaijani refugees. According to information from Mr Gorbachev, delegations have been sent to the area to address these demands and to resolve the complaints peacefully, and they have brought about the hope that the problems will be resolved without rebellion or disorder.

The Necessity To Fight Reactionary and Extremist Thinking

There is not the slightest doubt that the retrogressive and discredited demand for an independent and united Azerbaijan has not had and will not have the slightest appeal or effect, but even so one must be prepared to resist it with full awareness.

If the Azerbaijanis living in Soviet Russia—who are ethnically Iranian—wish to make use of the simple and ordinary ability to come and go to Iran, their original homeland, and to see their compatriots (of course under reasonable laws and regulations governing conditions of entry and departure and length of stay), they are expressing a natural and emotional inclination. As for the people who, with bad intentions and foolish ideas, are demanding the creation of an independent and united Azerbaijan, they are to be seen as the enemies of the independence and territorial integrity of Iran and Soviet Russia, and the people of Iran, as in the past, must rise up and fight with word and deed the reactionary ideas of this "drunken and addicted, but Muslim!" minority.

We are certain that Mr Gorbachev will not accept the unacceptable expectations and the unrealistic slogans of the remnants of the defeated Democratic and Worker Faction and it is impossible, with the hundreds of problems and great domestic and foreign difficulties he has, especially with regard to the malfunctioning economy, that he will spend even a minute of his time even to listen to the coarse voices without the least amount of political and social credibility, because this issue, in light of the historic precedent of the public uprising by the people of Azerbaijan against the Democratic faction in 1325 [21 March 1946- 0 March 1947], has an illuminating precedent.

Nation's Heavier Duty Against the Adventurous Islamic Republic Regime

The unfortunate, astonishing, and worrying thing is that according to the latest reports from news correspondents, the regime of the Islamic Republic is again shouting the slogan to take down some wall, again under the deceitful cover of "Islam." A regime which has sought to keep its imposed, alien government in power from the beginning of its rule by creating "crises" within and outside Iran, is this time adventurously seeking to create the most dangerous crisis which cannot be tolerated or ignored by any Iranian who believes in Iranian independence and territorial integrity. The duty to fight and struggle for the rapid overthrow of the ruling regime, this great enemy of the homeland, and to make provisions to transfer the power of rule to the nation with an extensive national coalition is heavier than at any time before. [passage omitted]

*Bakhtiar: Recognized Borders Inviolable

90OI0133B London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Jan 90 p 2

[Statement by Dr Shapur Bakhtiar, head of the National Resistance Front of Iran: "Recognized International Borders Cannot Be Violated"]

[Text] This statement says: Events that have taken place recently in the Independent Republic of Nakhjevan and are related to the proximity of Iran, require that the following points be given full consideration:

1-Recognized international borders are not to be violated under any circumstances. International law, peace, and world security are firmly grounded in this clear legal principle.

2- he National Resistance Front of Iran [Nehzat-e Moqavemat-e Melli-ye Iran] and myself have always believed and continue to believe in the above principle, for life and progress in international society, and the preservation of peace and world security are inconceivable unless this principle is observed. Therefore, we regard all recognized treaties and agreements concerning Iran's international borders to be respected and inviolable, and we strongly confirm that the Iranian nation will not accept any kind of change in any terms or in any form to any of the nation's borders, all of which have been definitively recognized and are based on valid international treaties and agreements.

3-Azarbayjan is the cradle of Iranian territory, and throughout history has protected the identity, nationality, and integrity of the nation's territory.

4-In today's evolving and expanding world, the freedom of movement and expansion of trade and border exchanges, whether commercial or cultural, have been recognized as matters of principle. Iran and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are not exceptions to this rule. Resources of this kind have existed in the past between Iran and Soviet Azerbaijan. Current circumstances, in the ordinary course of international affairs, require that more facilities be made available in this area by both governments. However, freedom of movement and trade across the border and cultural relations cannot in any way damage the Iranian identity of any of the nation's ethnic groups.

*USSR Warns Against Interference in Azerbaijan

90OI0133A London KEYHAN in Persian
11 Jan 90 pp 1-2, 9

[Text] While all the news agencies have reported the return of relative peace to Soviet Azerbaijan, on Sunday 7 January the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY [IRNA] reported that new demonstrations had occurred at the Nakhijevan border to the north of the Aras River.

According to IRNA, on Sunday a great many Soviet Muslims gathered at the northern bank of the Aras River and chanted Islamic chants for 2 hours. According to this report, as yet unconfirmed from another source, on this side of the Aras River a number of Iranians also gathered and chanted slogans in support of the demonstrators on the other side.

On Sunday, Islamic Republic radio also reported that three residents of Soviet Azerbaijan swam to the Iranian side, and after a brief stay on the Iranian side and obtaining several copies of the Koran, they swam back to the other side of the Aras River.

While Islamic Republic officials refrain from expressing official and specific views, last week the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI called the demonstrations by the people of Azerbaijan an "Islamic people's" revolution and wrote: The revolutionaries in the Soviet Union called out the cry "God is great" and we in Iran likewise answer them with "God is great." The TEHRAN TIMES proposed in last Saturday's editorial that the restrictions on free travel by the people of Soviet Azerbaijan to Iran should be removed. The TEHRAN TIMES warned Moscow to refrain from pursuing the demonstrators in the recent events of Soviet Azerbaijan.

Beginning of Disturbances

Thousands of residents of the independent Soviet Republic of Nakhjevan in Azerbaijan, following demonstrations that took place between 31 December and 2 January, attacked installations along the border between Iran and Soviet Azerbaijan, and by destroying watch towers, tearing down electronic sirens and cable lines, and cutting the border barbed wire systems between the two nations, a group of them entered Iranian territory.

The number of demonstrators was reported to be between 4,000 and 7,000.

The official Soviet news agency TASS reported on Tuesday 2 January that radicals in the independent republic of Nakhijevan had committed acts of sabotage, but it did not state their motive. TASS added: The perpetrators of this irresponsible behavior tried to make conditions even more disturbed than usual in the Caucasus area. TASS emphasized: The demonstrators were under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

In the attack against the border by the Nakhijevan people, 63 policemen and local officials of the Communist Party, who were trying to calm the situation, were wounded.

Iranian border officials immediately delivered an official protest to the Soviet border guards to the north of the Aras River and asked that such incidents be prevented on the border between the two countries.

This note said that the demonstrations by the Soviet people in the vicinity of the Iranian border were "a violation of the border agreement of 1957 between the two countries" and that the necessary steps must be taken to prevent their repetition.

On Sunday 30 December "discontented" and radical elements held a people's gathering of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan in Baku. That day the question of taking "steps" the next day to protest the "separation of the Azari people of Iran and the Soviet Union" by the border between the two countries was voted on and approved.

The proposal to "take measures the following day," especially by Ne'mat Penahov, who since 1988 has been present and a speaker at all demonstrations and gatherings by Soviet Turks, including the disturbances and crisis in Qorabagholia in Armenian, was emphasized.

Samad Oghlu, another leader of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan, also told THE WASHINGTON POST last week: During the Stalin period an official Berlin wall was erected between seven million Azaris in the north in the Soviet Union and 20 million Azaris in the south. Samad Oghlu added: We are not radicals. We only want permission to see our families and dependents on the other side of the border and to trade freely.

In reporting the border incidents in the republic of Nakhijevan, the official news agency for Soviet Azerbaijan claimed that these incidents were carried out by local residents wishing to occupy the uninhabited border zone in order to utilize its rich soil. The independent republic of Nakhijevan has been faced for some time with the problem of increased population that resulted from the crisis of clashes between Armenians and Turks, and 2 years ago a flood of Azari immigrants from Armenia began flowing into Soviet Azerbaijan and Nakhijevan.

The Buildup of Soviet Border Forces

After the attack by demonstrators on border installations, Moscow officials announced that military forces on the Iranian border had been built up. This was announced Wednesday 3 January in Moscow by a KGB official. In an interview with the newspaper IZVESTIYA, he revealed that Moscow officials consider it likely that the demonstrations will spread all along the 790-kilometer Iran-Soviet Azerbaijan border. This KGB official, who is in charge of the Caucasus border forces, said concerning the events in Nakhijevan that they have been going on for 1 month. He added: The demonstrators first gathered on 4 December near the border, and began "talking" to the Iranians with loudspeakers. In their own words, they were proclaiming the message of "the unity of Northern and Southern Azerbaijan." These peaceful demonstrations were repeated on 12 December. This time the Popular Front of Azerbaijan gave an ultimatum to the border forces and demanded that all obstacles to free travel to Iran be removed by 31 December. Then the disturbances began on 30 December, as 4,000 people gathered that day along the border with Iran and began destroying the border installations. The demonstrators were armed with pistols and hunting rifles.

According to the publication THE FINANCIAL TIMES, another high-ranking KGB official named Brigadier General Nikolay Britvin, chief of the KGB border guard political directorate, told officials that there were 7,500 demonstrators and that they destroyed all the border facilities. He added that one person was killed in the demonstrations but that no shots were fired.

Nakhijevan Republic officials denied these claims by Moscow, however. In a 3 January interview with REUTERS, they emphasized that the incident was entirely a local matter. These officials claimed that contrary to what TASS said, there was no threat of any kind to the border officials and their families, and neither were the border installations burned. "The protestors only cut the barbed wire in order to reach the rich, uninhabited lands on the other side of the Aras River.

According to REUTERS, Abol-Fazl 'Aysayov, whom it called a "Communist Party official," had told this agency's correspondent: There was no destruction or threat to border officials and their families. There was no alcohol or narcotics, and everything took place entirely peacefully.

In reaction to these comments from Communist Party officials in Nakhijevan, Moscow television showed for the first time pictures of the damage done by the demonstrators to the border installations and the electronic siren systems. Likewise, it was announced on Thursday that 'Aysayov had been dismissed as first secretary of the Nakhijevan district of the Communist Party and that he would be replaced by 'Afieddin Dzhalilov, formerly party president in a Baku neighborhood. The reason for dismissing 'Aysayov, like that of most of what happens in the Soviet Union, was given as "sickness."

Following release of the news of attacks by demonstrators in Nakhijevan against Soviet-Iran border installations, conditions in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan became more sensitive. On Thursday 4 January, hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Baku, the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, and again demanded the opening of the Soviet border with Iranian Azarbayjan. In these demonstrations, Azari nationalists gave a new deadline to the border keepers and demanded that by the day following the next day (Saturday 6 January) all border installations and obstacles be removed. When this deadline passed, however, nothing special happened. Even so, London's radio BBC reported that the city of Baku had been closed to foreign newspaper and media correspondents.

The French news agency reported that on Thursday conditions in Azerbaijan and Nakhijevan were generally peaceful. On the other hand, Moscow sent two representatives to that republic named Rafik Yanchaov, the chief of the Nationalities Office in the Supreme Soviet Communist Party, and Andrey Girenko, new secretary of the Central Committee of that nation's Communist Party, to talk with representatives of the Popular Front of the Independent Republic of Nakhijevan, and bilateral talks began on Thursday. These people visited the site of the border incident and said vaguely that it is likely that there will be arrangements made to facilitate contacts between the Azaris on the two sides of the border. The French news agency reported that these two individuals said unofficially that Soviet Azaris would soon be allowed to go to Iran without a visa. On 5 January Moscow television, quoting Girenko, also announced that the Soviet government must find a way to facilitate contact between the Soviet and Iranian Azaris.

Salaheddin Olgprov, member of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan, who talked with the Moscow delegates, told correspondents that Nichanov, before the talks began, told the front's representatives, "everything will be resolved to the liking of the residents of the Independent Republic of Nakhijevan."

The Islamic Republic's Reaction and Gerasimov's Warning

Islamic Republic's radio and television, following the emergence of disturbances along the Iran-Soviet border, announced the news of the uprising by the Muslim people of Azerbaijan with Islamic slogans and support for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Throughout last week, Radio Iran announced again and again that a group of residents of Soviet Azerbaijan swam across the Aras River to Iran.

However, it gave no explanation why they swam to the south shore of the Aras River. Neither did it say whether or not these people were seeking political asylum and residency in Iran. On Sunday, IRNA changed its tone concerning the disturbances in Azerbaijan and said that more Soviet Azaris swam to Iran, and had returned to the Soviet Union after a brief stay. IRNA said that these people took a few volumes of the Koran back with them to the Soviet Union. Even so, no explanation was given as to who gave them the Korans and how they swam back across the river with them.

Tehran's newspapers have tried to portray the disturbances in Azerbaijan and the Nakhijevan incidents as purely Islamic. For example, the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI last Sunday in an editorial wrote that "rays of the sunshine of Islam" have begun to warm the Muslim republics of the Soviet Union. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI added that "the destruction of false walls cannot be limited to Europe, and other walls must also be destroyed."

A short time after the Islamic Republic of Iran began its propaganda concerning the Islamic essence of the uprisings in the south of the Soviet Union, Gennadiy Gerasimov, Soviet government spokesman, in a statement that was clearly a strong warning to the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that the border demonstrations "are not a matter that concerns Iran, and are not significant from the fundamentalist point of view." Gerasimov added: "What is happening in Azerbaijan is an internal Soviet affair, and it has nothing to do with other people and other countries." With these words, he warned the Islamic Republic of Iran against interfering in internal Soviet affairs.

Several days before the beginning of these disturbances, Moscow clearly declared that the freeing of the Central European Countries so that each one can be managed "in the way it wishes" would stop at the Soviet borders. It is clear, however, that Kremlin officials are very worried about the disturbances in their southern republics, especially in the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the Caucasus republics are the main foundations of Islam in the Soviet Union, and in recent decades Moscow's economic policies have always been to the detriment of the residents of the southern republics. On the other hand, Iran's influence from afar is again being intensely felt in these republics, and the Islamic Republic of Iran has used every kind of Islamic propaganda to arouse the Muslim people of the Caucasus republics.

Recently, a group of Majles deputies asked that country's Foreign Ministry to facilitate travel to Iran by residents of Soviet Azerbaijan. Following this request and other political pressure, Mohammad Hoseyn Qadiri-Abyaneh, general manager of intelligence and publications in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry, on 20 Azar [11 December] announced that "within the framework of cultural and tourist agreements between the two countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to establish tourist, recreational, and pilgrimage tours and to accept Soviet citizens who wish to take part in these tours." Qadiri-Abyaneh added: "Iran's willingness to do this has been conveyed through diplomatic channels to the officials of the Soviet Union."

The day before this was announced, the Soviet ambassador to Tehran gave a special message to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, for which no information on the contents has been obtained.

Likewise on Saturday 6 January, a delegation from the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran led by Mohammad Va'ezi went to Moscow to meet with that nation's officials. No explanation was given concerning the delegation's mission, it was only said that they are delivering the answer to Shevardnadze's message to Velayati. Even so, it is clear that recent events in Soviet

Azerbaijan are at the top of the discussion agenda for the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation. It is said that tourist offices will soon be opened to accommodate travel by citizens of the two nations in Soviet and Iranian Azerbaijan.

Turkish-Soviet Talks

Financial problems and the recent uprisings in Soviet Azerbaijan and Nakhijevan were the main subject of talks between Ayaz Niyaz Ogly Mutalibov, prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, and Turkish officials, which began last Saturday.

Mutalibov visited Turkey for 5 days and met with that nation's president and prime minister.

The border between the Republic of Nakhijevan and Turkey follows the Aras River for 13 kilometers, but pan-Turkish sentiment is quite strong in Turkey.

The Turkish government opened a "free market" in December on both sides of its border with the Independent Republic of Nakhijevan, in the Sarisu area.

Pictures of Khomeyni and "Other Mullahs"

The weekly JOURNAL DE DIMANCHE published in Paris reported on Sunday 7 January that the disturbances and demonstrations in Baku continue despite the regulations of martial law. This publication claimed that in last week's clashes at the Soviet-Iran border, at least 15 persons were killed, more than half of whom were Soviet soldiers.

This publication reports that in the recent demonstrations, as in the 1989 demonstrations, pictures of Khomeyni and other mullas were seen in the crowd.

KGB reports confirm that Moscow's inaction and policy of patience and tolerance, in the hope that the disturbances will end by themselves, have thus far yielded the opposite result. Officials of the Central Communist Party of Azerbaijan told a parliamentary delegation from the French Communist Party that recently went to Soviet Azerbaijan that the army is no longer willing to tolerate gunfire and having its automobiles burned.

In a report last week, the newspaper INDEPENDENT wrote of Soviet Azerbaijan that many of the people of Azerbaijan still keep pictures of Fath'ali Shah, Farah Pahlavi, and Ayatollah Khomeyni in their homes.

*Report on 26 Dec 89 Majles Session

90OI0116A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Dec 89 pp 5, 9

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles convened in public session under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, Deputies Eslami and Hadi Khamene'i spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that the only item on the agenda was continued consideration of the 5-year plan, for which discussion on proposed amendments from the deputies continued with regard to Note 29.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers and the detailed proceedings.

Mr Yadollah Eslami from the Baft electoral district was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. During his talk he praised the sacred soul of the liberated man who gave liberty to free men as a gift (Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him). He said:

These days a number of people, God willing, supporters of the revolution and the government, speaking in open forums in apparent defense of the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, have questioned the achievements of the government over the last 10 years, and using the name that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has chosen for his government, namely the government of labor, they have questioned the government of Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, which they refer to as the government in service of the Imam. This kind of defense of the government is the worst type possible. This individual, either unknowingly or God forbid out of personal motives, is trying to question the high government officials and to create an atmosphere of pessimism and despair among the people, because everyone knows that the government's high officials, from the great position of the leader to the respected president and the other officials, over the past 10 years have held key posts in the service of His Holiness the Imam and no decision was made unknown to them or without their approval. The prime minister was introduced by the president, and all the ministers assumed their positions with the president's confirmation and a Majles vote of confidence. Moreover, the Imam's spiritual support has always helped the government solve problems. His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani has sacrificed and put his own interests aside most of all for the triumph of the Islamic revolution and has always served the Imam as a loyal soldier since the beginning of the revolution, and he has held the most important responsibilities throughout the past 10 years, and his active role is clear in all decisions. All current high officials and Engineer Musavi's serving government have defended this land's Islamic prestige in the shadow of His Holiness the Imam's brave guidance.

He added: The question is, is a government that has not submitted to the blackmail of foreigners, has fought against an economic embargo, supported the armed forces to continue the struggle with the enemies of Islam, affirmed the nation's honor, glory, and independence, endured the taunting of domestic detractors and kept silence to protect the government and the interests of the revolution, a government of labor or a government of slogans?

Recalling those days of heroism and nobility, and with the great nation of Iran's steadfastness against the savagery of foreigners, it is natural that the Majles must help the government solve economic, political, and social problems by making clear policies and giving the necessary support. Everyone knows that His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as someone who presented the discussion of social justice as a necessary principle from the forum of the Friday prayers, is beloved by the public. His voice is still heard from the Friday prayer pulpit, for he cannot tolerate the juxtaposition of an area like Za'faraniyeh with the slums. He has truly presented this as a general principle, and those who obstruct the government today and are trying to question Mr Hashemi's government are still the godless capitalists. Of course, these blessings must always be accompanied by constructive elections and appropriate and beneficial reminders, because merely to confirm, and failing to point out mistakes leads to bigger mistakes, and this is not in the interest of the government. It is the responsibility of the officials to make available the necessary conditions for constructive elections and for all concerned people to present problem-solving guidance to prevent the spread of rumors and lies.

Elsewhere in his talk, he said: Preventing the distortion of the talks and writings of His Holiness the Imam needs much sensitivity and care. The mention of one or two examples of the Imam's sayings printed by the newspaper RESALAT reminds all of us of this important mission, meaning the guardianship of values and principles. In the Imam's political and divine will it says "I charge the respected clergy, and especially the great sources of emulation, not to withdraw from the affairs of society or be indifferent to them, especially such things as the election of the president and the Majles deputies." At the top of a political advertisement for militant clergy candidates in the newspaper RESALAT dated 9/21/68 [12 December 1989] it says "I charge the respected militant clergy [jame'eh mohtaram-e rowhaniyat-e mobarez]," meaning the word "militant" was added to "clergy" while the expression "especially the great sources of emulation" was deleted from the original text. In the 4 Azar 1368 [25 November 1989] edition the terms "rigidity" and "superficially sacred" were eliminated from the original text of His Holiness the Imam's words in an item printed in a large headline on page one. When obvious distortions of this kind take place, it is surprising in light of the fact that the original text of these remarks is available. Won't there be distortions of meaning? I will again read this point from His Holiness the Imam's message and this point in His Holiness the Imam's will, "Now while I am here, some things are inappropriately attributed to me, and it is even possible that additions are made. I therefore say that what has been or is attributed to me is not to be believed unless it is my voice or in my handwriting with my signature with the confirmation of the experts, or something I said on the Vision of the Islamic Republic. All officials must see to it that any kind of incorrect publication of materials attributed to His Holiness the Imam be prevented, and the press are expected to play their part in the desired manner.

Mr Eslami also said: I ask that the work and plans of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy insiders not be outside the existing intellectual and policy framework in the country, and that the interests of the sacred government of the Islamic Republic be observed. The existing foreign policy weaknesses are not worthy of this divine government. I deem it necessary that the Majles involve itself in the overall process of issues, events, and decisions, and I consider it necessary that the Majles Foreign Policy Commission play a more active part and exercise clear precision in the course of developments. As representatives of the Islamic revolution, our ambassadors must have a proper understanding of the revolution, they must have a good understanding of the process of change in the country, and they must be able, with correct perception, to anticipate developments in their assigned areas. Foreign Ministry officials, as trustworthy consultants, must defend the dignity of the Islamic Republic with appropriate planning. The weaknesses and malfunctions in this area cannot be ignored. The latest example of Ceausescu's trip to Iran is cause for serious reflection. Dr Velayati, speaking to a group of students at Tehran University yesterday, which I attended as a member of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission, said things that cannot be accepted. The fact, as it is said, that our officials repeatedly advised Mr Ceausescu to submit to the views of the people solves nothing. Mr Ceausescu certainly acted on the views of our officials, for he submitted to the forces in opposition to him. I also thank Mr Khalkhali for speaking out on the day of Mr Ceausescu's visit and also in his talk yesterday. Aren't the errors and problems related to this matter? Aren't there other problems? Unfortunately numerous issues could be cited. This is a general concern that must be considered. Whenever we wish to speak on this matter, unfortunately partisan concerns do not permit us to take up the real issue. I am speaking out here and now.

Continuing his remarks, he said: The brothers who have gone abroad and studied some of the embassies can see how we are faced with serious problems. Our martyred people have gloriously defended the government's prestige. Must our ministry be this way while they are not able to know the officials of the Foreign Ministry as they should? Revisions in the Foreign Ministry cadre and the employment of capable and toiling people must be given consideration by the foreign minister.

The speaker then discussed the arrest of committed and fruitful Iranian youth and their imprisonment by the English Government. He said: These dear ones of ours are in medieval English prisons, and our officials must deal seriously with the spies and corrupt elements who are committing crimes in this country in affiliation with England.

In conclusion, the Baft representative condemned the military intervention of the Great Satan (America) in Panama.

After Mr Eslami's remarks, the Majles speaker said: Mr 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri made a point that I consider it necessary to state.

He said that the sentence that was printed in the newspaper RESALAT was an error made by the newspaper, and the Militant Clerics Association [Jame'eh Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez] submitted their statement to all newspapers in a specific coordinated manner. There RESALAT made the error and whatever happened has to do with the newspaper RESALAT and has nothing to do with the Militant Clerics Association.

Legal and Majles Department—The newspaper RESALAT printed a correction of this error the following day and included the Imam's (peace be upon him) full statement. Likewise, after the publication of circulars by opponents of the clergy with forged signatures, in answer a member of the mobilization fully clarified the matter. Unfortunately, the respected Baft deputy, like the distributors of the circular, insists that this was done intentionally! It is our view that we used an Islamic method, and Mr Eslami, with no reference to our explanation and our apology to the respected readers, raised this issue again. If there are people who want to make it their business to circulate this idea, this is not an Islamic method.

This is not an Islamic statement, even if the speaker's name is Eslami. Although it is not hard to find the ones who distributed the illegal circulars, we again call upon the judicial authorities and the Ministry of Intelligence to pursue the issue.
RESALAT, 9/22/1368 [13 December 1989]
RESALAT, 9/27/1368 [18 December 1989]

Seyyed Hadi Khameneh'i, Mashhad Deputy

The second and final pre-agenda speaker for yesterday's public Majles session was Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i of Mashhad.

The first part of his talk had to do with the Majles guidelines on the manner of studying the 5-year plan. He said: The Majles and the deputies, based on the Constitution, have equal rights before the nation, and for studying matters having to do with the nation, these rights cannot be divided or transferred. The work of the Majles is not patterned after the executive work of the government, meaning that the commissions here must not and cannot be employed as copies of the ministries. Of course the duties of the commissions can be divided according to their names, but the way they work in the executive organizations can never be a model for us. He added: In the government the Plan and Budget group, as a ministry and now as an organization, actually acts on behalf of the other ministries in executive work and decision-making, and as an aide to the president, who has supervision and control over all executive and decision-making matters. The Plan and Budget Organization is his arm in supervising and planning in the government in the sense of intervention and decision-making from above and the supervision of all organizations in industry, agriculture, culture, domestic and foreign policy, and elsewhere, but it is not this way in the Majles and cannot be. In the Majles, for short-range, medium-range, and long-range plans every commission is separate. If it is the Industries Commission, it must have views on industrial policy on the basis of which actions and decisions can be taken in all areas. If it is the Agriculture Commission, it is the same, likewise if it is the Economic Commission, likewise if it is the Medical and Health Care Commission, and the same applies to educational matters. Unfortunately, however, we see that in the Majles, within the narrow limits of guidelines which were immersed in these errors from the beginning, we have done what the government did, but we must not do this. In practice, the result now is that in one of the greatest and most historic decisions of the Third Majles, meaning the 5-year plan, all discussion has been within the horizons of the limited views of a commission as the primary commission, the commission acting for the government, called the Plan and Budget Commission, yet there are commissions in the Majles who, under their own special names, ought to have a say in the final decisions in the very important issues of this 5-year plan. They should be able to raise and lower figures and make decisions about their future.

The speaker added: With this mechanism, where no deputy is ever allowed to have a point of view in his own worthy position, we have said several times during consideration of several of these notes that for example a certain note ought to be presented to the Majles as a bill in the study of the free trade zones or other matters. Contrary to this view, the Plan and Budget Commission passed the final decision to the government. That is, it took the right to express an opinion away from the Majles and gave it to the government, and of course it now regrets this itself. On the surface, we may well say that there should be a conducive and appropriate atmosphere for expressing views on the manner of doing things and guidelines. Again, however, it is quite improper that although I gave the problems in the beginning to the respected Council of Ministers and the speaker of the Majles, we still delude ourselves that we are studying the 5-year plan, but our study is quite defective and inept. In reality we study the views of the Plan and Budget Commission. It in turn has come here to a large extent following the lead of the Plan and Budget Organization and the government, and the time allotted to the Majles and its members, those who have the opportunity and the motivation to speak, occupies only a very small five-minute slot, and even that is subject to the time available to the Majles. The text of a bill is presented as the primary bill, votes are usually taken on the original issue and the original article, and suggestions, no matter how relevant and good they may be, are not usually voted on except in special cases, and the reason is that this is dictated by the Majles situation. This is the first part of what I had to say. Unfortunately, circumstances do not permit me to say everything I had to say about these unlimited and improper prerogatives that are given to a commission. We see that the Plan and Budget Commission is made up of our own dear brothers, but I think it proper to say it is a problem that they express views and interfere in all other issues pertaining to the other commissions. Why do they sit and discuss the problems of foreign exchange? Because they will have the first and last word, and therefore the other commissions have no practical existence.

In the second portion of his talk, Mr Khameneh'i discussed the issues of the day. He said: It is very clear that the nations of the world realize that the valiant Muslim nation of Iran is deeply delighted to see a heroic nation like Panama standing and fighting bravely this way against the savage, bloodthirsty, Great Satan America. There is now in the heart of our nation a passionate yearning for an opportunity to go and stand with them to fight criminal America. Definitely, the mobilized people of our nation are saying that if we have the opportunity we will go there and once again make the criminal Americans the target of our attacks, and it will be delightful and a rich opportunity for us. This is the general position of the Islamic Republic of Iran at all times and in all cases, and there is no doubt about it. Of course the nation or the Majles must not be left to take a separate position here from that of the government, but unfortunately sometimes the malfunctions make this necessary, otherwise, there ought not to be a difference between the nation and the government.

Continuing, the speaker discussed the issues that have arisen pertaining to Romania and the trip by the former president of that country to Iran. He said: The excessive malfunctions and short-sightedness in our foreign policy force us to acknowledge that we cannot refrain from stating our own positions. The brother deputies know that we ministers and officials have greater access to the media, but we are under pressure from the nation, they ask us, sir, what are the positions on these matters? We cannot answer if they can come before the people and state these issues, and explain their ins and outs. It is most unfortunate, however, that this short-sightedness is so great that these things happened in Romania and our representative there could not see them and report. The least that might happen is that these officials and high officials of course should raise a legal question, and we expect this, while we also expect that our nation will stage a demonstration as glorious as possible today throughout the country, in Tehran, and before the Majles in the presence of the brother deputies.

Mr Karrubi's Answer to Mr Khamene'i

After Mr Khamene'i completed his remarks, Mr Karrubi spoke to explain the remarks of Mr Khamene'i. He said: I consider it necessary to make two points. The first is that all discussions that are held here are according to guidelines that you approved yourself, and you must observe them. If you have a problem, you must amend the guidelines.

The 5-year plan has been in the Majles for some time. It has been in the commission, it has been discussed, and as Mr Zanjani said, the issues of foreign exchange have been under serious discussion for 15 or 16 months. The second point has to do with the Plan and Budget Commission. First of all, the Plan and Budget Commission works hard and they ought to be praised and thanked for working so much. The Plan and Budget Commission takes a lot of time, it works and toils. It is natural that this is its right and its responsibility.

Another problem you raise is that only the commission expresses its view. This is the nature of every bill. The bill comes to the commission related to it, and the rest of it goes to a secondary commission. If this is your problem, this is a problem with most of the bills. Every bill comes to one place, to one commission, and that commission comes and gives its report, and this is the way things are done here.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the 5-year plan bill.

Proposals on Note 29:

- The Economic Affairs and Finance Commission proposed a substitute for Paragraph A, which was not approved.
- Likewise, the same commission proposed the following replacement for Paragraph B:

"To provide funds for exports, the government is required to make available to exporters the necessary foreign exchange facilities to encourage the export of non-petroleum exports, limited imports of raw and supplementary materials, parts, packaging materials, and other implements and materials for production, and the export of non-petroleum goods as well as the sending of export letters of credit and technical services after obtaining guarantees of a return appropriate to the plan's export objectives.

Within 3 months executive guidelines for this paragraph must be proposed by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and approved by the Council of Ministers."

This proposal was opposed by Mr Herati and supported by Mr Hadi Khameneh'i, and after statements by the commission expert and the government's representative, the proposal was put to a vote and approved.

With regard to Paragraph J, the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission proposed that the phrase "signing treaties with foreign contractors" be deleted.

Mr Nowbakht (Explaining the Proposal)

Explaining the proposal from the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission, Mr Nowbakht said: We believe that if the Ministry of Energy or the other ministries sign contracts with foreign contractors to use their potential resources in carrying out their projects, they must observe the point that they must definitely have foreign exchange income. The question also arises whether or not we want to make contracts with foreign contractors to make maximum use of existing resources.

He said: The commission proposes that in addition to foreign contractors, we look to domestic contractors. If we conclude contracts with domestic contractors, there will no longer be limitations for us, and we will be able to obtain from it free foreign exchange.

Mr Moe'zi (Opposing the Proposal)

Mr Moe'zi spoke in opposition to the proposal from the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission explaining that Paragraph J of Note 29 is one of the most revolutionary messages of Note 29 which prevents the departure of foreign exchange which was taken in view of domestic capabilities. He said: This Paragraph J says, Mr Respected Minister! If you want to sign contracts with foreign companies, you must do it in such a way that ultimately $2.5 billion in added value will be created through domestic manufacture and in view of domestic resources.

Mr Moe'zi continued: We are now talking about the foreign contractor. If a domestic contractor gets a project, we have no problem in the reality of the domestic economy and the monies spent. This is precisely one of the natural mechanisms foreseen in this Note 29, and if, God willing, there are no problems for this issue, it will certainly be one of the genuine movements existing in the 5-year plan.

Mr Hojaji (Supporting the Proposal)

Speaking in support of this proposal, Mr Hojaji said: This word "foreign" in Paragraph J is insulting to the brothers who rendered valuable and worthy service after the triumph of the Islamic revolution in development and construction, in view of the fact that our revolution is based on "neither East nor West, Islamic Republic." Is the term "foreign" meant in the absolute sense, meaning even to include the cursed Great Satan, Israel, and South Africa, who have committed crimes in the world of humanity? It could be so interpreted. This is truly an imposition and insult to our government and nation. The word "foreign" must therefore be eliminated. If we use a term today, we must answer to the nation and to conscience. Of course if the words "domestic" or "competent companies" are used with "foreign," it will be desirable.

The Commission Expert's Comments

Mr Hadi Ghaffar, an expert on the Plan and Budget Commission, said: Mr Hojaji has spoken truly. We said that if the government is required to carry out a project, it can sign a contract with foreign contractors to protect our national interests.

Continuing, he added: When foreign contractors are mentioned, it does not mean that those foreign contractors will not use domestic resources and manpower. This paragraph requires the government to raise this issue in its contracts with foreign contractors. When the government does this, it must bring us $2.5 billion in added value. At the same time, we do not give foreign exchange to foreign contractors except in rials. This proposal does not call for something you do not want.

Mr Nezhad-Hoseyniyan

Mr Nezhad-Hoseyniyan, minister of Heavy Industries, spoke in opposition to this proposal. He said: There is an error in this discussion. When we give work to domestic contractors, we have no problem and we do not even need approval from the Majles and other bodies. Our main point is that when we give advanced and technical work to foreigners, they are charged with carrying out part of the project. In any case, foreign contractors will certainly have to come here. When we can make use of domestic contractors, we will certainly do so, and we will have no need of foreign contractors, but this issue is different from the other one.

Continuing, he added: In contracts with foreign contractors we will stipulate that whatever resources are available domestically must be used. If something is to be added, then say "domestic and foreign contractors." Therefore the term "foreign contractors" should not be eliminated.

The proposal to eliminate the phrase "signing treaties with foreign contractors" was put to a vote and rejected.

Continuation of Majles Proceedings

A group of deputies submitted a proposal to eliminate Paragraph D from Note 29.

Mr Behzadian (Explaining the Proposal)

Explaining the proposal to eliminate Paragraph D from Note 29, Mr Behzadiyan said: First to the dear brothers who want to oppose the proposal, I ask them to discuss the luminous achievements of Paragraph 15 of Note 29 which we enacted in 1368 [21 March 1989- 0 March 1990] and gave the government $1.5 billion in order to make use of the facilities of the foreign bank for investment in production projects and units. Unfortunately, of the $1.5 billion, the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone alone was unable to commit one-tenth of it, meaning $113 million. Moreover, the foreign exchange in that sense has not yet been spent. Only a contract has been signed.

Continuing, he added: Therefore, the gentlemen have not yet been successful. We say that if they succeed, we will support them, very well.

Mr Behzadiyan then said: To prevent work from being dispersed and scattered, they have turned the task over to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Foreign Investment Company, where Mr Navab will go to discuss projects with foreign companies and sign contracts for them to come and do the work. Mr Navab himself, attending a meeting of the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission, officially stated that no foreign company or government will contract with us under these conditions. If you want this work to get underway, authorize us to borrow directly. These are the words of someone who has become the government's appointed labor representative.

He also added: Over the last 16 years, $200 billion have been spent, and in view of the lack of management and personnel in this country, this is $200 billion thrown to the wind. Mr Zanjani said no, in these 16 years our total budget was $150 billion. You have spent $150 billion in 16 years and have been unable to get anywhere with it. How do you propose to spend $130 billion in 5 years? As you say, we will leap from the Third World countries to the world's semi-advanced and industrialized nations. The truth is that if it were really possible for you to promise this in 5 years, if you had the manpower, management and capability, I would have nothing to say.

Mr Behzadiyan explained the point that our work must be efficient enough that we can compete abroad. He said: Mr Nezhad-Hoseyniyan just said to me: Since the proposal was made that we should export 500 buses, the English have come and given a bus production line to Sri Lanka, meaning they want to compete with us. You are therefore competing in the same market with the multinational governments and companies. The quality of your goods must therefore be high and the nation's management must also be high-quality. Based on what we know about our own industry, you need foreign manpower. Foreign manpower will also create a dual economy in this country.

Mr Hasan Ja'fari (Opposing the Proposal)

Mr Hasan Ja'fari, Shahr-e Babak deputy, spoke briefly in opposition to this proposal. He said:

In fairness, we must build the country based on industry. This is the expectation that we have, and accordingly whenever we try to create facilities for it some obstacle or objection is raised. The message of Paragraph D Note 29 is that for the purpose of procuring foreign exchange for completing or carrying out industrial investment and projects that have remained unfinished for long years and the enormous sums left on the shoulders of industry because of the delays, some action should be taken.

Continuing, he added: If we want to deal in details and obstruct progress, it will never be practical for us to carry out the great work we hope, God willing, to complete in these 5 years.

Mr Hadi Khamene'i (Supporting the Proposal)

Speaking in favor of deleting Paragraph D, Mr Hadi Khamene'i began by saying: As the brothers know, this paragraph, along with 2 and 3 and another paragraph, all have to do with borrowing in various ways. Here they have first of all drawn a table to be used in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. Meaning here you will authorize projects of which you now have no knowledge. Briefly, Supplementary Table Two of this plan is not now under discussion. Therefore, in the year 1369 you will know during the study of the plan for 1369, a few months from now after it is approved, what you authorized for the $7.5 billion. Do you see what is meant by borrowing?

Continuing, he added: We must have confidence that this borrowing is for several years. Is it forever, or not? Will this continue like a chain? Just as our industry is interconnected like a chain, let us not forget that formerly our industry was never implemented due to the lack of initiative and clear competence. It became more or less a chain of industries affiliated and limited by the world's multi-national companies, and we have no authority in it.

In conclusion, Mr Hadi Khamene'i added: When there is a full guarantee of the future of planning, there may be something to say, but as long as these issues have not been clarified, we warn that this will continue forever, and again next year they will report that for this and that reason the moves were not successful and they will want money, loans, and authorization again.

Mr Aqa-Mohammadi (Commission)

Mr Aqa-Mohammadi, a member of the Plan and Budget Commission, said at the beginning of his remarks: Several points must be clarified in this discussion. First, the plan that has been discussed has constantly given the slogan that this paragraph is aimed at welfare and the like. I would like to say that this plan, with all the provisions we have made in it, will not ultimately reduce the absolute level of unemployment. Its outcome is that it will convert inflation to a single digit. Its outcome is that it wants to cover the illiterate population in 25 years. The brothers who say that these things are excessive, must take note for the nation that this message is a message for poverty, corruption, and decadence, and independence is not overlooked. The way the discussions have been going, one might think that some people want poverty, illiteracy, science, and technology not to exist in this country.[as published]

Continuing, he added: The volume of worldwide international trade and export was $2490 billion in 1988. We had $12 billion of this, and that was with petroleum. That is, with one product, one-half percent of the world's trade and exports went to our country. The brothers must recognize that the outcome of this plan, $24 billion, is 11 percent of the average world trade in recent years. They must allow that we must finally answer to these figures we are laying down in 5 years, and we must arrive at a place where we will not go backward, and we will have taken the nation forward somewhat.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Mohammadi added: We have allocated a total of $27.3 billion in free foreign exchange for industry. We have allocated $7 billion of this $7.5 billion for industry, to make a total of $34.35 billion. In doing this, we are seeking to raise the average growth of industry to 14.2 percent. When we speak of industry, the brothers must recognize that the growth we are planning for industry includes tractors, all agricultural implements, and all production. Meaning that if this does not work and is not managed, they will not be manageable and able to be implemented, for anyone to be able to say that we will achieve self-sufficiency.

He discussed reform of the industrieal structure, and said: We want to reform the structure of industry when it needs its own investment. I will give some figures on the current situation. In the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], our imported and industrial consumer and production consumer goods were 45 percent, the return on them was 49.3 percent and the rate of investment was 5.7 percent. What we want to accomplish with this injection of foreign exchange is to bring consumption up to 48.4 percent overall, to bring the return up to 63.1 percent, and investment up to 8.5 percent. Again, the point we must notice is that these things are the foundation of independence.

Continuing, he added: The road to independence is for us to avoid a one-product economy. We have been saying these things for 10 years. Today is our day of action, and we must carry it out. The gentlemen have a one-product economy with a $9 billion industrial export plan, and the $9 billion is part of the income that we tell them to allocate. Now we will look at the figures, and you will see how much foreign exchange they propose for health care, higher education, and elsewhere. That $9 billion we saw there is all earmarked so that we can use it to take care of exports. I will mention some items as examples to clarify. For example, one of the things we do is make four-cylinder gasoline engines, and it takes 2.2 years to get the investment back on this. That is, if it goes into production, the investment will be recovered in 2.2 years. There are types of gear boxes and diesel-powered vehicles that take 2.6 years to recover the investment.

The rings and pistons for certain vehicles take 2.7 years. Generators, starters, and other kinds of vehicles take 2.3 years, and there are many examples. What we want to give is in industries where there are agreements in principle and they have already been exporting. Of the $7 billion that exists here and that we give to industry, we must give $4.909 billion to industries that have already taken out agreements in principle and spent some money. The burden of inflation from that has been injected into society and there is the need for the machinery to come and be set in motion. If the brothers take the total into consideration, we give $7 billion to industry so we can get growth at the figures I gave. If we do all of these things by the year 1372 [21 March 1993 - 20 March 1994] and if all of these things happen, if we have no problems, and if nothing unexpected happens, the brothers will see that in 1372 our situation will be 20 percent better than this year. We must tell the nation where we want to take them. Therefore, this paragraph will solve nothing.

They proposed Note 29, and none of its paragraphs were approved.

Dr Nurbakhsh's Comments (Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance)

Dr Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, discussed Mr Behzadian's remarks to the effect that Paragraph 15 of Note 29 achieved nothing last year, and answered his objection that it should not have been included in the plan. He said: I say to him that in view of his sensitivity to this issue, why is he worried? If it achieved nothing, then neither will it achieve anything in 1369 [21 March 1990- 0 March 1991]. It will therefore be as you believe and there will be no worry. The difference is that we will be able to act, and thus that is the very thing you have spoken against. Therefore, the fact that you cannot make use of it is no reason to worry. As it happens, this may even have a strong point, that if we cannot make use of it, the same thing will happen that its opponents are seeking.

Dr Nurbakhsh added: As it happens, here, because of this very weakness in management, it is said that payment must be made within the period of time agreed to, as well as at the time of completion of the project. That is, if management is not capable of completing the project in the stipulated time period, there will not be any repayment either. Therefore, it is the very thing you are seeking, you are worried lest the money be wasted because of weak management. As it happens, these problems could arise where cash payments are made, but here you have the tool to prevent it.

The proposal to delete Paragraph D was put to a vote and rejected.

The deputies also proposed other paragraphs for Note 29, none of which were approved.

At the conclusion of yesterday afternoon's public Majles session, receipt was acknowledged of the question from 45 deputies addressed to Dr Velayati, the foreign minister, concerning the last trip made by the condemned Romanian president, Ceausescu.

Nepal

Banned Nepali Congress Party Holds Conference

Indian Parliamentarians To Attend

BK1801042490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Seven Indian members of parliament arrived in Kathmandu from New Delhi last night to participate in the 3-day national conference of the banned Nepalese Congress for restoration of complete democracy, freedom, and human rights. They are Mr Chandrashekhar and Mr Hari Kishore Singh of the Janata Dal, Mr M.J. Akber and Harish Rawat of the Congress-I, Mr Abdullah Farooqi of the CPI [Communist Party of India], Mr Harkishen Singh Surjeet of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and Mr Subramaniam Swamy of the Janata Party.

Asked by newsmen if they have come to assist the Nepalese Congress to usher in the multiparty system in the Himalayan kingdom, Mr Chandrashekhar made it clear that nobody from outside could give any assistance.

Calls for Democracy, Human Rights

BK1801161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The 3-day national conference of the banned Nepalese Congress began in Kathmandu today with a call for restoration of multi-party democracy and unrestricted human rights in Nepal. Addressing the inaugural session, the party leader, Mr Ganesh Mansingh, and its acting president, Mr K.P. Battarai, demanded immediate abolition of the partyless panchayat system in the country.

Our Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that seven Indian MP's [members of parliament] representing Janata Dal, Congress-I, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], CPI [Communist Party of India], and Janata Party attended the inaugural session. The MP's include Mr Chandrashekhar, Mr Har Kishan Singh Surjit, Mr Farooqi, and Mr Subramaniam Swamy.

To Launch Democracy Movement

BK2001145090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 20 (AFP)—The outlawed Nepali Congress said Saturday [20 January] it would launch a nationwide political movement on February 18 to push for the return of democracy in Nepal and the restoration of human rights, party sources said.

The movement would also press for the dissolution of the 29-year-old partyless panchayat (parliament) system in the country, the sources said, adding that the movement was timed to coincide with the country's celebration of national democracy day.

Addressing the last day of a three-day convention called by the banned party, the president of the Nepali Congress, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, said the movement would observe a strike "followed by massive demonstration against the panchayat system in all districts of the kingdom."

He said he was confident the movement would succeed and "full-fledged democracy would emerge in the country instead."

Mr. Bhattarai said some 3,500 rank and file delegates from 73 of the country's 75 districts had attended the meeting here, together with some 1,500 observers including a prominent member of India's ruling National Front government, Chandra Shekhar, and other Indian MPs [members of parliament] from different parties.

None of those who took part were arrested and officials did not attempt to block the conference, he said.

The delegates also unanimously adopted a seven-point resolution dealing with the country's social and economic problems, the policies adopted by the panchayat, rampant corruption, and a policy of national reconciliation.

The resolution also went on to say that the country's economy was declining as its foreign debt increased, adding "the foreign aid grant and loan is being spent just to maintain the panchayat system for the interest of a handful of people."

"As a result of the wrong policies pursued by the panchayat system, the country has become one of the poorest in the world," it said.

Turning to corruption, the resolution said the country was exposed to "all kinds of corruption and illegal dealings, there is no justice nor any law and order ... the panchayat rulers and its supporters seem to be above law and can commit any crime and go scott free."

The party blamed the country's current problems on the partyless system which was introduced after King Mahendra, father of the present monarch, dismissed the country's first parliamentary government, led by the Nepali Congress, in December 1960.

In its resolution the Nepali Congress said it dropped its armed struggle against the government in 1978 in favour of national reconciliation, and was calling for a mass political movement to allow the people to build the nation "by national consensus and through the peoples' own democratic institutions."

Also present at the press conference [as received] were the party's senior most leader Ganesh Man Singh, and the party general secretary, Girija Prasad Koirala.

Demands All-Party Government

BK2001132090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The 3-day national conference of the banned Nepalese Congress, which ended in Kathmandu this evening, has demanded formation of an all-party interim government in the country, replacing the partyless panchayat government. The party leader, Mr Ganesh Man Singh, said that the interim government should be entrusted with the task of holding free and fair elections on the basis of multiparty system.

Indian MP's Warned 'Not To Interfere'

BK2101090190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Twenty-four members of the Nepalese Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament] have asked Indian MP's [members of parliament] who had attended the national conference of the banned Nepalese Congress in Kathmandu not to interfere in the internal affairs of Nepal. In a statement issued in Kathmandu, they said that the Nepalese panchayat system under the leadership of the crown has stood the test of time and reflected the democratic aspirations of the Nepalese people.

Local Leaders Protest Remarks

BK1901143190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 19 (AFP)—Local government leaders meeting at a convention here Friday [19 January] criticised comments on the current political situation in Nepal made at an opposition congress by a visiting member of India's ruling national front government.

The chairmen of district and town panchayats (councils) said in a protest note to Indian MP [Member of Parliament] Chandrashekhar that his comments Thursday criticising the partyless panchayat (parliament) system in Nepal were a "blatant interference in the internal affairs of the Nepalese people," panchayat sources said.

The Kathmandu and Bhaktapur district panchayat chairmen handed the protest note to Mr. Chandrashekhar Friday on behalf of the other 73 district and 32 town chairmen (mayors), the sources said.

In the note they accused the Indian MP of trying to "incite violence (by) pleading the cause of a few people who have shown courage for your flattery instead of an ability to go to the masses."

"Your disdain for Nepalese nationalism and self-respect, your inclination to insult Nepalese national institutions and your dangerous arrogance is reflected in your willingness to blantantly interfere in the internal affairs of the Nepalese people," the note said.

Mr. Chandrashrekhar made his comments on the opening day of a three-day national convention, the first in 29 years, organised by the banned Nepali Congress, Nepal's only pro-democracy movement.

He pledged the firm support of the national front government in New Delhi for the struggle in Nepal for political freedom, and warned the panchayat establishment to be aware of the current political situation in the world and the struggle for democracy.

At their meeting the chairmen also discussed the economic and political situation in Nepal, and the successful implementation of a policy to decentralize the administration and devolve powers down to the village level.

Sources said there were some differences of opinion on the question of further liberalising the partyless system and in the softer approach being taken towards the banned opposition groups.

Also Friday three more Indian MPs from the Janata Party, Yashwant Sinha, Kamal Murarka, and Rabindra Machindra, arrived here to take part in the Nepali Congress convention which has drawn some 5,000 supporters.

The other seven Indian MPs who arrived earlier included members of the Congress (I) Party, the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party and the Communist Party of India-Marxist.

Speakers including the Indian visitors and Nepali Congress leaders pledged their support for a plan to launch a national movement to push for a return to multi-party rule and the restoration of "full-fledged human rights."

Nepali Congress delegates also discussed the form of draft resolutions to be adopted Saturday, and the time and form the national movement would take.

The president of the Nepali Congress, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, is expected to announce the formal date for the launching of the movement on Saturday.

Nepal, the world's only Hindu kingdom, is governed through the non-party panchayat system of directly elected local and national councils while King Birendra wields significant political and executive power.

The Nepali Congress supports a constitutional monarchy and was banned by King Mahendra, father of the present monarch, after he dismissed the country's first parliamentary government, led by the Nepali Congress, in December 1960.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan Reiterates Pakistani Stand on Kashmir

BK2301154390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan completed his talks with Indian leaders in New Delhi today.

During his 3-day stay, he met with Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh and held discussions with Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral. Two rounds of talks were also held at the delegation level.

During the talks, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan reiterated Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute under relevant UN resolutions and the spirit of the Simla agreement. He rejected allegations of Pakistani interference and pointed out that the cause of the current unrest in the Kashmir Valley was purely of a domestic nature, which has surfaced due to refusal to grant the Kashmiri people the right to self-determination. He referred to the tension and uneasiness in bilateral relations due to the deteriorating situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

The two sides underscored the need for preventing an escalation in tension in bilateral relations and for keeping the doors to negotiations and dialogue open in order to prevent an escalation in tension and confrontation due to mistrust and misunderstandings.

The two foreign ministers agreed to continue discussions at all levels, including at the levels of defense, interior, and water resources secretaries in order to deal with problems relating to Siachen, terrorism, and Wular Barrage project. They decided to convene a meeting of secretaries of water resources soon.

The Pakistan-India joint commission meeting will be held in the 1st quarter of this year. A bilateral meeting will also be held toward the end of this month to discuss issues relating to arrested fishermen and their fishing trawlers. The surveyors general of the two countries will resume their talks on borders.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also held consultations on new dates for the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] in light of discussions he had in Colombo and Male last month. They also reviewed progress in SAARC activities since the November meeting of the SAARC ministerial council in Islamabad last year.

The foreign minister later left New Delhi for Kathmandu where he will hold consultations with Nepalese authorities on SAARC affairs.

Minister Demands Punjab Chief's Resignation

BK2301162090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan Jan 90

[Text] Ahmad Saeed Awan, minister of state for information and broadcasting, has strongly condemned the upsurge in incidents of violence and police excesses in various cities of Punjab, and he has demanded that Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif should resign immediately because he has failed miserably in maintaining law and order in the province.

Commenting on a clash between the police and the people at (Chinot) in which several lives were lost, Ahmad Saeed Awan said in Lahore today that the police are deliberately creating the law and order situation in the province at the behest of the Punjab chief minister to serve his purpose. He said the clash in (Chinot), which followed the police violence in Gujran, is highly regrettable. The people know that their lives, property, and their honor are not safe because the police, considered to be the guardians of law, are being misused by the chief minister to take revenge on the people.

Ahmad Saeed Awan said clashes between the police and the people in several cities of Punjab are a clear indication that the people have lost patience in the face of police atrocities. Police indulging in incidents of violence and the people's demonstrations on the streets also clearly reflect this fact.

Rallies in Support of Indian Kashmiris Continue

BK2301144390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The people of all Azad Jammu and Kashmir continued protest demonstrations and rallies today to express solidarity with their brethren in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

A demonstration was held in Muzaffarabad under the aegis of the Nongazetted Employees and Clerks Association, which later took the form of a rally. The speakers appealed to the free world, especially the Islamic community, to support the Kashmiris in their struggle to achieve their right to self-determination under relevant UN resolutions. They also performed funeral prayers in absentia for those who have sacrificed their lives to free their motherland from Indian occupation. A memorandum was handed to the UN observers in Muzaffarabad.

Similar rallies were also held in (Chah Kothi), (Atmuqam), Kaohri, (Tapaika), Pir Kot, and other areas of the liberated territory.